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Major wins battle for referendum

Vote will take place if Tories decide to join currency union

By NICHOLAS WOOD
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Cabinet will agree today to hold a referendum on a single currency if the Conservatives win the next election and decide to join a single European currency.

The decision will be a victory for the Prime Minister over Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine, who have fought against the pledge.

It is expected that the announcement will be made in a statement from Conservative Central Office and say that the referendum pledge will be included in the Tory manifesto for the next election.

Downing Street officials last night refused to comment on what they described as "speculation".

Last night Mr Major sent Cabinet members a 10-page paper on the implications of a referendum written by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary. The Prime Minister has held meetings with the Chancellor over the last two weeks in an attempt to persuade him of the merits of promising that a Tory Government would not replace the pound with the euro without first gaining the assent of

the British people in a referendum. As late as Monday, Mr Clarke was strongly resisting such a proposal and some of his friends were saying yesterday that he might resign if over-ruled by the Prime Minister. But some ministers have said throughout that it was inconceivable that the Chancellor would quit over such an issue, dismissing the rumours as part of the elaborate game of bluff.

Mr Clarke's decision to give ground will alarm pro-European MPs but will delight the Tory

Right, who believe that the Chancellor has too much power and that he is the obstacle to a more populist, tax-cutting, sceptical agenda for winning the next election against the odds.

Mr Major's standing will be boosted in right-wing circles, but he does risk renewed sniping from the Left.

The threat by billionaire financier Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party to field candidates at the next election wherever neither the Tory nor Labour candidate is

committed to a plebiscite has been a big factor behind the Government's change of heart.

But Sir James, together with leading Euro-sceptics such as Norman Lamont, wants a referendum on all aspects of Britain's European destiny, and not just on a single currency. Today's pledge will not stop Sir James, who is prepared to spend £20 million on his campaign.

Mr Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, has also opposed a referendum in principle, but more than Mr Clarke, has been prepared

to recognise the pressure within the Tory Party, at Westminster and in the country, for such a commitment. It is understood that Mr Heseltine has acted as a go-between in the negotiations between the Prime Minister and the Chancellor.

It is understood that Mr Clarke has been given a "collective responsibility" concession by Mr Major in their talks.

The Prime Minister has decided that if a future Tory Cabinet — most probably in 1998 — were to

recommend that Britain should join the first wave of countries to adopt the euro the following year, ministers would have to resign their posts if they wanted to campaign for a No vote. Euro-sceptic ministers are broadly content with this because they think that the prospect of a sizeable minority walkout would make it harder for a future Tory Cabinet to go ahead with the euro.

Plebiscites were last held in 1979 on Scottish and Welsh devolution. In 1975, the country voted in a referendum to stay in Europe.

John Redwood, page 16
Leading article and Letters, page 17

Building society chief dismissed over expenses

By PATRICIA TEHAN, ROBERT MILLER AND CAROL MIDDLEY

THE chief executive of the Woolwich Building Society was dismissed yesterday after only three months in the £300,000 post, amid allegations that he misused company cars and facilities.

Peter Robinson was told that he had lost the trust of his fellow directors after an internal audit brought the incidents to light. A six-figure sum is said to have been involved.

Since becoming chief executive in January, Mr Robinson is said to have borrowed two cars, including a Range Rover, for his family's use in addition to his company Jaguar, and to have used Woolwich decorators to carry out work on his £450,000 Kent home, which he then changed to the society.

The alleged abuses were reported by the auditors last week — while Mr Robinson was on holiday in the West Indies — and a senior group of the society's non-executive directors met on Sunday to consider the allegations.

When Mr Robinson returned to England the next evening, he found a letter from

the chairman, Sir Brian Jenkins, telling him not to attend the monthly board meeting yesterday because the directors would be considering the case made against him.

He was officially told that the board had lost confidence in him after that meeting and his predecessor, Donald Kirkham, will resume office until a replacement is found.

In a tightly worded statement, the Woolwich said only that Mr Robinson had resigned. Sir Brian said: "Neither Mr Robinson nor the society believe it to be appropriate to comment further at this stage. The normal business of the society is entirely unaffected. The society's assets and members' funds remain unimpaired."

The dismissal could not have come at a worse time for the Woolwich, Britain's third biggest building society, which announced in January that it intends to turn itself into a bank with a £2.5 billion stock market flotation. At the time, Mr Robinson made himself unpopular by describing new

savers who would not benefit from the free shares that will be issued on flotation as "carpetbaggers".

Within the society, Mr Robinson was known as a hater of cutting costs, he was accused by colleagues of extravagance in his own expenses: when he was appointed chief executive, he was said to have knocked his new office through to his old one to create a new power base.

Mr Robinson's first contact with the Woolwich came as a 14-year-old schoolboy when his mother took him into the local branch at Bexleyheath and opened a savings account.

When he finished his education at Erith Grammar School and the City of London Polytechnic, he returned to the society as a management trainee and worked his way up the ladder through various executive positions before becoming deputy chief executive in 1986 and managing director in 1991.

When appointed chief executive, he was hailed as a dynamic glamour boy amid the traditional backdrop of the society, and he is known as one of Kent's most flamboyant figures.

He owns a six-bedroom mock tudor home featuring a swimming pool and tennis courts, in Bexley, where he lives with his wife Janice — his former secretary — two teenage daughters and two golden retrievers.

An accomplished cricketer, he is president of the Kent Cricket League and as a former batsman for Kent Colts has been at the crease with Sir



Peter Robinson: only three months in £300,000 job

Colin Cowdrey and Alec Stewart and has more than 50 centuries to his name. He is also captain of both Bexleyheath and Bromley cricket clubs, a Lords Taverner and enthusiastic member of West Kent Golf Club in Orpington. He is a Freeman of the City of

London, a regular face at the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall and still a playing member of the MCC.

But he insists that beside the dazzling lifestyles of his siblings his is pedestrian. "People might say I've got a big ego, but I've got two brothers who

are multi-millionaires and my sister in Canada is a successful dress designer. I am the least important of them all. But my mother thinks I have done the best because I have done it the hard way."

The Woolwich will now be Continued on page 2, col 7

Army gets tough with Cyprus troublemakers

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH soldiers and airmen serving in Cyprus will be sent home in disgrace if found guilty of breaching proper standards of behaviour off duty and upsetting the local community.

The instant punishment for servicemen and women who misbehave in bars and nightclubs will be outlined today, following public revulsion over the killing of the Danish courier Louise Jensen.

The measure, which will be enforced even if the serviceman involved has his family living with him, is one of several steps taken to try and reinstate the forces' good image after three soldiers from the Royal Green Jackets were sentenced last week to life imprisonment for the killing.

Air Vice-Marshal Peter Millar, commander of British forces in Cyprus, is to visit bases today and tomorrow to address everyone serving on the island.

Army sources said the option of sending a soldier home from Cyprus had been avail-

able for the last 14 months, but following the outcry over the killing and the reaction to Army statements after the sentencing, there is to be a renewed effort to impose the strictest code of behaviour.

Persistent troublemakers would probably face summary disciplinary action such as a fine as well as being sent home. Once in Britain, they would be sent to serve with another unit.

General Sir Charles Guthrie, the Chief of the General Staff, and the other members of the Army Board have been shocked by the critical reaction towards the British forces in Cyprus. They were stung by criticism of Brigadier Arthur Denaro, the Chief of Staff in Cyprus, who said it was not the Army who had been on trial but the three soldiers from the Royal Green Jackets.

Ministry of Defence sources said the Army took full "institutional responsibility" for the conduct of its soldiers.

Letters, page 17



Robinson's Kent house

Labour rebels

Thirty-one Labour MPs defied the party leadership by opposing a measure to rush through anti-terrorist legislation. Page 10

Two hairs may solve mystery of the kidnapping of Shergar

By JULIAN MUSCAT

TWO hairs taken from Shergar by student souvenir hunters more than a decade ago may finally prove the key to unlock the mystery of what happened to the £10 million Derby winner after he was kidnapped in 1983.

They will be used by an Irish laboratory which has been told by "genuine contacts" that it is to be sent the champion's body for identification by genetic screening. The horse is said to have been exhumed in Donegal.

John Flynn, head of Weatherby's Bloodtyping Laboratory in Co Kildare, hopes to extract DNA from the remains and compare them with the

hairs taken by two veterinary students during a visit to Shergar's stable in Ballymory. If they match, "the evidence indicating that they came from the same horse would be overwhelming".

Should Mr Flynn and his team make that connection, they will lay to rest one of the great unsolved mysteries. Shergar, ten-length winner of the 1981 Derby, was abducted from the Aga Khan's Ballymory stud in broad daylight in 1983, rocking the racing industry and making a laughing stock of the police.

A £2 million ransom was demanded, but negotiators lost contact with the kidnappers within a week. An independent investigation for the Aga Khan, who had syndicated the horse to 40 shareholders, concluded that Shergar died within days of being seized and that he was probably taken by the IRA.

But all attempts at confirming the horse's fate have failed. Three years ago, the convicted criminal Sean O'Callaghan signed an affidavit saying that Shergar was put down hours after his abduction. But that did not satisfy the insurers.

Now, however, Mr Flynn believes that he may be able to resolve the matter. "In theory we can be successful," he said. The process is complicated

because there is no record of Shergar's DNA profile. But the two hairs could prove priceless and further hints can be extracted from what remains of the 35 horses sired by Shergar in his brief career as a stud. X-rays taken during his career might also help.

Des Leeson, head of clinical pathology at the Irish Equine Centre, which houses the bloodtyping laboratory, told the monthly bloodstock journal *Pace-maker* & *Thoroughbred Breeder*: "Whatever their motives, all of the parties interested in Shergar's recovery run the risk of discrediting themselves if this conclusion is not reached."



"We have surrounded the building... Come on out"

BSE pressure

Britain came under fierce pressure at a meeting of European Union farm ministers in Luxembourg to take more radical steps to calm public panic in Europe over "mad cow" disease. Page 2

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Leaders depart for Easter dancing and sidestepping

John Major and Tony Blair left Westminster for their Easter break in shin-kicking good spirits. Blair accused Major of leading a hopeless and divided party and Major accused Blair of stupid PR stunts. Both men looked surprisingly cheerful.

It was perhaps rash for the Labour leader to kick off on the subject of referendums, which he accused the Prime Minister of favouring merely as a device to conceal splits in the Conservative Party. "I'm surprised," crooned Major in

reply, "that he mentions referendums."

Major went on to remind cheering Conservatives that it was Blair who had just announced a referendum — within his own party, to approve its manifesto — as a way of dealing (claimed Major) with splits in his own party.

Blair sounded momentarily shocked, as though he hadn't himself made the link, but came back confidently. "I'll have more support in my referendum," he said, "than the Prime Minister can find in

his Cabinet." Mr Blair is beginning to dance as he speaks. Standing at the dispatch box yesterday he started holding his arms outstretched and aloft, bobbing slightly, and grinning as he spoke. It was rather fetching and infuriated the government benches.

For his part Mr Major sounded relaxed and not displeased with the world or his place in it. Citing examples of disagreements on Europe within the Opposition he finished with the triumphant cry: "The Labour Party is as



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

split ... " Every detached viewer must have finished the sentence for him: "... as the Conservative Party." But the Prime Minister thought better of that ending. "... As can be" he declared. Phew!

Mr Blair waved his arms again, but it was Kate Hoey (Lab, Vauxhall) who unwittingly set her leader up for the Prime Minister's departing

punch. She challenged Major to make good the offer she believed (through the week-end press) he was holding out: a television debate with the Labour leader. "Name the day," she trilled.

"You do say the nicest things," replied a grinning Prime Minister.

Ah, he continued, Labour wanted a debate, did it? He

recalled trying to goad a Labour incumbent into just such a debate when he had been a young Tory challenger. He could recall the response he received: "Go and sort out your policies first and then I'll consider these stupid PR stunts."

Odd how accurately Mr Major's memory served to bring him the precise quote from all those years ago — an era, in fact, when the phrase "PR stunt" was hardly in currency. Odd, too, how well the quote fitted his present purpose. People who think of

Major as some kind of guileless ingenu do not begin to understand him.

Mr Major is never off-guard in the chamber. Michael Brown (C, Brigg and Cleethorpes) could easily have led him to a gaffe. Mr Brown had taken the opportunity to sing the praises of Grimby and Cleethorpes' fish. Frankly, Brown will sing the praises of anything from Cleethorpes. He would sing the praises of a toilet roll, if it came from Cleethorpes. Now was his chance to invite the nation, scared about beef, to eat

Cleethorpes fish. He took it. The Prime Minister eyed this question warily.

A) he wished to oblige a loyal backbencher; B) he did not wish to upset fishermen from rival ports; C) he must avoid being accused of giving the beef panic another stir. Major paused to consider these objectives.

Yes, indeed, he replied, the nation should eat Grimby and Cleethorpes' fish. "Or fish from other places." And after that, he added, they should tuck into a good plate of beef. Phew!

Farm ministers press Hogg for cull of BSE herds

By JAMES LANDALE
IN LUXEMBOURG,
ARTHUR LEATHLEY
AND MICHAEL HORNSBY

BRITAIN came under fierce pressure at a meeting of European Union farm ministers in Luxembourg last night to take more radical steps to calm the public panic in Europe over "mad cow" disease.

Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, was accused of blocking progress towards an agreement on a rescue plan for the beef industry by resisting demands for the culling of cattle from infected herds.

In the Commons, John Major was urged to break the impasse with unilateral action to reassure the public and prevent the loss of jobs and businesses. Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said: "Jobs are being lost, small farms, small firms are going to the wall because of delay and indecision on BSE. There are steps you could take without waiting for Brussels. Act now where you can, rather than stand there wringing your hands waiting for Brussels to open the door."

The Prime Minister angrily rejected the demands. He said Mr Hogg was "making good progress" and would "keep negotiating until a package of measures is agreed."

In Luxembourg, the prospect of an early end to the



Douglas Hogg outside the meeting yesterday

European Union's global ban on British beef exports receded. Mr Hogg's plans for the destruction of 4.6 million cattle over the next six years as they come to the end of their productive lives won broad backing, but European farm ministers also want BSE-infected herds killed. Only such action, they believe, will restore public confidence.

One senior French source suggested Britain should adopt the French approach under which any herd that has had just one case of BSE is slaughtered. But this would entail the destruction of half Britain's dairy herd.

Mr Hogg was criticised for failing to propose any detailed plans for culling BSE-tainted herds. While other ministers made no public criticism, their

sentiments were made clear through diplomatic channels. "We would have liked Britain to come up with firm proposals, but they have not," one German diplomat said.

The diplomat accused Britain of keeping the EU in the dark over the extent of the spread of BSE in British herds and repeated German demands that all British herds with any past cases of BSE should be "eradicated".

Some British farmers accused Mr Hogg of dragging his feet over the issue. "We have a collapse in the market," one farmer observed at the meeting said. "When you have that written in big block capitals, you should act."

But there were supporters for Mr Hogg from the Country Landowners' Association which said that a mass slaughter of cattle in their prime would be totally unjustified and do nothing to reduce the incidence of BSE, bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

As the emergency meeting continued into the night, there was agreement over measures to intervene in the beef market as prices continued to fall. The European Commission is to buy up to 50,000 tons of beef across the EU this month at guaranteed prices. Despite opposition from Germany and Belgium, Britain secured a concession to include steers and young bulls.



Ken Sharp, a Liverpool father of two. He died unable to recognise his family

Businessman, 42, is latest suspected victim of CJD

By ADAM FRESCO

A 42-YEAR-OLD businessman is believed to have become the latest victim of the human form of mad cow disease. Ken Sharp, a father of two who died at the weekend with his family at his bedside, had been ill for a year with suspected Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, the human equivalent of BSE.

Mr Sharp, from Childwall, Liverpool, who owned an auto-electrical business, was at the end unable to recognise

his family. His wife, Patricia, 42, said that at first he suffered from little problems such as spilling his tea and becoming forgetful. It was only when he put up wallpaper like a jigsaw that his wife realised something was seriously wrong. A specimen of his brain has been sent to the CJD Surveillance Unit in Edinburgh and it is expected that the cause of death will be confirmed in a couple of months.

Mr Sharp had been treated at the Walton Neurology

Centre in Liverpool. Dr Mark Doran, a consultant neurologist who treated Mr Sharp, said: "We won't have a definitive diagnosis for some time but, as in all suspected cases, there was a 50 per cent chance he was suffering from CJD. If he was, then he is a comparatively young case."

Mrs Sharp said yesterday: "My husband was not a great meat eater, no more, no less than anybody else. Mentally, Ken died back in June and we are just coming to terms with his loss."

Germans panic over confusion at medicines ban

By ROGER BOYES IN BONN AND ROBIN YOUNG

THE British pharmaceutical industry reacted with incredulity yesterday to a renewed panic in Germany in which it was claimed that the German Government had ordered the withdrawal from sale of pharmaceuticals using products derived from cattle, whatever their country of origin.

The German Federation of the Pharmaceutical Industries strove to reassure Germans that the move affected only a smattering of drugs, but doctors said their switchboards were blocked with nervous inquiries.

The frenzy began when the Federal Pharmaceutical and Medical Institute in Berlin sent pharmacies a fax ordering the withdrawal from sale and the return to the manufacturer of medicines using marrow from cattle, connective tissue, mammary glands, kidneys, livers, testicles, gall bladders, blood, urine and foetal tissue. Those products were said to be banned until September 30, 1997.

The order was described as a purely preventive measure. "We simply want rigorously to exclude any risk that could ensue from the taking of medicine."

There was confusion over whether the ban extended to the many medicines encased in gelatine capsules. Beef bones, tendons and hides are used in the manufacture of gelatine, though the bone marrow is removed in the

degassing process before the gelatine is made by boiling at high temperatures.

Lung tissues from cattle are used in the preparation of some respiratory medicines and a cow's pancreas is used in the making of some hormonal medicines. German industry sources emphasised that pharmaceutical gelatine was drawn largely from German raw materials, and insisted it was absolutely safe.

The new German scare comes after a second case of a German suffering from the new variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. The victim, a woman in her early 30s, is in hospital in Tübingen. Her case has been baffling doctors because she ate mainly vegetarian foods and has never visited Britain.

In Britain Alison Williamson, of the Proprietary Association of Great Britain, the trade association for over-the-counter medicines, said of the reported German ban: "This absolutely boggles me. Is it an April Fool's joke that has arrived a day late?"

Ben Hayes, of the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries, said: "This seems to have originated with a scare story in the German tabloid press. We believe that what the institute has done is no more than re-litigate advice issued already in 1992, warning against the use of medicines derived from what we call the proscribed offals."

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Regulator criticises water companies

Two water companies were criticised by the industry regulator yesterday after a six-month investigation into standards of customer service since privatisation. South West Water, which has been at the centre of a series of disputes during the past 12 months, was sanctioned for failing to meet deadlines on the improvement of sewage treatment works. The company was given warning that its failings might lead to cuts on increases in customer bills. Ian Byatt, Director-General of the Office of Water Services, said the company had also suffered delays in achieving targets on cleaning up bathing waters under the European bathing directives. The regulator also found that, although North West Water had complied with drinking water standards, other services were poor. Mr Byatt said: "Although the company's services have improved since privatisation, overall they do not match those of some others."

Last Newbury tree felled

The felling of five trees yesterday marked the end of the big security operation to clear a path for the Newbury bypass in Berkshire and opened the way for building to begin this summer. The cost to the taxpayer of evicting protesters from illegal tree camps and protecting clearance teams will be £4 million before any of the 8½-mile road is laid. There were 16 arrests yesterday, bringing the total to 767.

PC saves boat boys

A Ministry of Defence policeman dived into Portsmouth harbour to save the lives of three boys whose dinghy was being crushed between two disused submarines. PC Graham Roberts attached a towrope to the 8ft dinghy so that Kirt Canavan, 11, his brother Grant, 9, and their friend Daniel Holden, 11, could be hauled to safety. Mr Roberts was treated in hospital for hypothermia and shock.

Mother greets Lock

Robert Lock, 30, the Briton who was cleared of drug smuggling after three years in a Thai jail, stepped off a plane at Heathrow yesterday and into the arms of his mother. Lynda Lock said: "I can't believe this day has finally come." Mr Lock, right, from Cambridge, said: "It's wonderful to be home." Sandra Gregory, who was travelling with Mr Lock, has been jailed for 25 years.



Lorry tests delayed

The Driving Standards Agency has been forced to postpone the introduction of written driving tests for lorry and bus drivers planned for July 1 after a flood of applications from learners trying to beat the summer deadline. It said that introducing the changes for all categories of drivers at once could "compromise safety" and that some would be delayed for six months.

Woolwich

Continued from page 1
returned to the hands of Mr Kirkham, who has always been viewed as a defender of the mutual status of the society.

Nevertheless, the conversion is to go ahead and Sir Brian said last night: "The board has full confidence in the continuing management of the society under Donald Kirkham, pending the appointment of a new group chief executive. I can also confirm that the society's conversion and flotation plans remain firmly on track."

But another major society which has committed itself to mutualism added: "It's a bombshell and almost unprecedented. Mr Robinson's unexpected departure comes at such a crucial stage in its conversion to public company and banking status."

"The society is depending on the goodwill of its members to support and vote in favour of the strategy of the Woolwich board. Whether this sudden exit will dent members' confidence remains to be seen."

And another rival commented: "This will rock the boat. The sudden exit of Mr Robinson will inevitably cause problems, if only for staff morale and in view of the fact that they are in a major transition period, and it is vital for staff and indeed members to have confidence in the top management."

Another said: "I am genuinely surprised. This news has come out of the blue and in the middle of a major conversion programme. It may have quite a set back on the society's plans." While a senior executive of one top six building societies said: "I am very surprised at the news about Peter Robinson. It comes at one of the most critical times in the society's history."

Tougher sentences 'are recipe for chaos'

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government's plans for tougher sentencing, to be outlined today, have been attacked as a "recipe for chaos" by the country's leading authority on sentencing.

Dr David Thomas, editor of the judges' sentencing "bible", *Sentencing Practice*, says that the Government's sentencing plans will need "radical legislative surgery" within months of coming into force.

Dr Thomas, a reader at the Institute of Criminology at Cambridge University, says the Home Secretary's White Paper plans for minimum sentences for repeat burglars and drug dealers, and automatic life sentences for second-time rapists and other violent offenders, are a recipe for chaos. In this month's *Bar Council* magazine, *Counsel*, he says the proposals will lead to "chaos in the prisons, as the population increases unpredictably, and chaos in the courts, as the established sentencing conventions are undermined."

He also told *The Times* that the Government has itself admitted that the plans — which have been opposed by the senior judges — will lead to more guilty offenders going free and more injustice. The Government stated in a 1990 White Paper that minimum or mandatory sentences for certain offences could lead to "more acquittals by juries and more guilty men and women going free."

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THE OLIVER & CLAIRE STRIP

Police to question sacked nurse over four deaths in intensive care

BY PAUL WILKINSON

POLICE are investigating the deaths of four seriously ill patients, including two children, in a hospital's intensive care unit.

A senior sister in the unit at the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle upon Tyne has been sacked for gross misconduct and detectives will now consider whether criminal proceedings should be brought. One line of inquiry is whether treatment was changed without authorisation to end the suffering of terminally ill patients.

A hospital spokesman said that each of the four people who died was "extremely ill with different and severe medical problems". At the time there was no suspicion of foul play but hospital authorities have now been told by a former colleague of the sacked nurse that the deaths were caused by interference with drips used to supply drugs and other fluids.

Sources close to the inquiry discount similarities to the case of Beverly Allitt, a mentally disturbed nurse who was given 13 life sentences in May 1993 for the murder and attempted murder of children on her ward at Grantham hospital. They also dismissed the possibility of mistakes through pressure of work.

Jim Cousins, Labour MP for Newcastle Central, has demanded a public inquiry into the deaths, which occurred between 1991 and last year. He accused the hospital of a cover-up by delaying the request for a police inquiry until after its own internal investigation ended last month. He said:

"The question on everybody's lips is, 'Why did the hospital not contact the police immediately these awful facts came to light'. There are issues which need to be looked at."

Christine Dryden, whose teenage daughter Patricia was one of the victims, said yesterday: "They told us she was getting the best care possible and it seemed to us that she was. It is horrible to think that she could still have been here with us today."

Patricia, 15, sustained 50 per cent burns in an explosion during a gas-stuffing session in a house near her home in Blyth, Northumberland, on October 18 last year. She died five days later without regaining consciousness.

Two other patients who died were a 12-year-old girl and a woman aged 69. Their families have been contacted by police, but the fourth, a middle-aged man, has not so far been identified by the informant. Medical records covering the five-year period are

being examined by police, who are using a Home Office computer.

Mrs Dryden, 41, said: "When the police came it was the first we had heard about anything being wrong. It was a terrible shock. If it is true that the nurse did something that caused Tricia's death it is really dreadful. The doctors never prepared us for the worst, we never had any doubt in our minds she was going to pull through."

The sister who has been sacked is an experienced intensive care nurse in her 40s who has been at the infirmary for 17 years. The complaint was made towards the end of January and she was suspended early in February. An internal hearing on March 18 found her guilty of gross misconduct and she was sacked instantly.

The hospital was alerted by a colleague who, a hospital trust spokesman said, "raised concerns about her professional misconduct". The spokesman rejected accusations of delaying police involvement. "Our usual disciplinary procedures were followed. The matter was then referred to the coroner, who requested the police investigation."

Northumbria Police said: "The inquiry is in its very earliest stages. Steps have been made to contact the relatives of three patients who have been identified. All were from the North East. Inquiries centre on interviewing hospital staff and relatives of the patients concerned and a thorough check of medical records."



Tricia Dryden: died after five days in unit



Hendrix with his then girlfriend Etchingham

Hendrix's foxy ladies continue their feud in court

BY OLIVER AUGUST

TWO former girlfriends of Jimi Hendrix yesterday took their 25-year feud over why the rock star died to the High Court. Kathy Etchingham, 48, applied to have Monika Danneman, 50, jailed for branding her a liar in a recent book.

Ms Danneman was responding to allegations that she called an ambulance five hours after discovering Hendrix had died in her flat on September 18, 1970. It is believed that he took a drugs overdose and choked on his vomit.

Ms Danneman became Hendrix's lover after the end of his 30-month affair with Ms Etchingham. The animosity between the two women started during the



Kathy Etchingham, left, and Monika Danneman, her successor as Hendrix's lover, at the High Court yesterday



1970s when Ms Danneman denounced Ms Etchingham in interviews, the court was told. She recounted comments Hendrix had allegedly made to her about Ms Etchingham, such as "Kathy Etchingham was another girl who I met when I came to London who would cheat and lie for money. When I went on tour I left her in charge of my flat and when I came back I found everything plus Kathy gone." A typewritten account based on these interviews was

circulated in musicians' circles in 1990 and 1991. Ms Etchingham believed it was written by Ms Danneman and sued her for libel. Ms Danneman always denied writing the tract.

The libel case was settled in 1992 and Ms Danneman gave an undertaking to the court not to repeat the allegations made in the interviews and specifically not to accuse Ms Etchingham of lying.

But when Ms Etchingham again questioned the circum-

stances of Hendrix's death in a newspaper interview, Ms Danneman attacked Ms Etchingham in a book called *The Inner World of Jimi Hendrix*, published last year. Ms Danneman wrote in the afterword that a former lover had "constructed the most gruesome story of Jimi's death. It was all an invention". Writing this amounted to a breach of the undertaking given by Ms Danneman that she would not call Ms Etchingham a liar again.

Charles Gray, QC, said. Even though Ms Etchingham was not directly named she was easily identifiable to people familiar with Hendrix's story, Ms Etchingham's lawyer said.

David Eady, QC, for Ms Danneman, claimed she had called a newspaper article based on interviews with Ms Etchingham a "lie" but not Ms Etchingham herself a "liar".

The judge reserved his decision until today.

Court rules woman has no right to lover's pension

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A WOMAN lost her High Court battle yesterday to receive thousands of pounds in death benefits as a "dependent" after the death of her partner.

The judge said that the fact that Carol Slack, of New Orlerton, Nottinghamshire, was living with her lover and that he paid for their joint expenses was not sufficient to establish her dependency on him.

"As Mrs Slack fairly explained, she gave up her financial independence in response to his wishes, but that was a matter of choice not necessity," Mr Justice Carnwath said.

In a judgment with implications for the beneficiaries of pension trusts, as well as for trustees, he upheld a ruling by the Pensions Ombudsman that there had been maladministration by the trustees of Keith Hindle-Smith's death benefits. Mrs Slack should not have the money left by Mr Hindle-Smith, an electronics company director, he said, upholding the Ombudsman's conclusions and dismissing an appeal by the trustees.

There was no evidence that she was "financially dependent" on Mr Hindle-Smith, the judge said. He upheld the Ombudsman's order that the trustees pay £500 compensation each to Mr Hindle-Smith's son and his daughter.

Mr Hindle-Smith died intestate in 1992. The judge said the trustees of his pension scheme were empowered to pay lump sum benefits of

£140,000 to any person they considered to be dependent on him "for all or any of the ordinary necessities of life".

Mr Hindle-Smith, who was divorced, had signed a nomination form saying the sum should be divided equally between his son Anthony and daughter Tracey. But before his death he was living with Mrs Slack, and the three fund trustees decided £80,000 should be paid to her as a "dependent".

They also decided a further £60,000 should be paid into a new trust, with Mrs Slack receiving the income for life and his children being entitled to equal shares when she died. In January 1993, £10,000 was paid to Mrs Slack and £70,000 used to purchase an annuity.

The judge said the matter was referred to the Ombudsman, Dr Julian Farrand, after a complaint by Anthony Hindle-Smith that the payments were "improper and a breach of trust".

Last August, the Ombudsman ruled the award to Mrs Slack null and void and ordered the trustees to recover the pay-outs on behalf of the children. He found that there had not been proper inquiries, and there was no evidence that Mrs Slack was financially dependent on her late lover "at any time in any real respect". Although there had been no substantial suggestion of dishonesty, the trustees had exercised discretion in her favour "wholly unreasonably".

Nightclub provides doctor on the house

BY KATE ALDERSON

A DOCTOR trained in drug-related problems will be on call at a Liverpool nightclub from the end of this month.

The doctor will be paid for by Cream nightclub and will be appointed by the Royal Liverpool Hospital, which has treated many people suffering from drug-related problems. Cream, which caters for about 1,800 people every Saturday night, is thought to have been the first British club to provide a first-aid room and free drinking water.

Dr Chris Luke, consultant in the casualty department at Royal Liverpool Hospital, will spend this month studying the club's needs before a doctor begins work there. He said that medical tents were set up at large open-air concerts, such as Glastonbury, and it was logical to extend such a service to nightclubs.

The move was announced yesterday as a coroner in Hampshire urged young people to turn their backs on Ecstasy after hearing that an 18-year-old student died alone in the lavatory of a rave club after taking it. Andrew Bradley, Coroner for North East Hampshire, said Ecstasy had become an intrinsic part of club culture.

He recorded a verdict of misadventure on the death of Ben Nodes, a student at Bournemouth and Poole College. Mr Nodes died at the Rhythm Station club in Aldershot in January.



It prints.

It copies.

(It does not, unfortunately, monitor taste.)

Spring in the wings promises dramatic late burst of colour

BY LYN JENKINS

SPRING is expected to bloom this weekend. Although temperatures are forecast to remain about 8C this week, with night frosts over much of the country, longer hours of sunshine will finally push plants into believing spring has arrived.

Much of Britain is likely to have five or more hours of sunshine a day. With last month averaging only 2.2 hours a day, compared with an average of 3.5 hours - and that the result of a few bright days at the end of the month - gardens have been unusually late to bloom.

At Kew Gardens the annual

show of nearly 9 million crocuses has been thwarted. Charles Shine, the herbaceous manager, said: "They have been in bud for three weeks and only out for 20 minutes one afternoon."

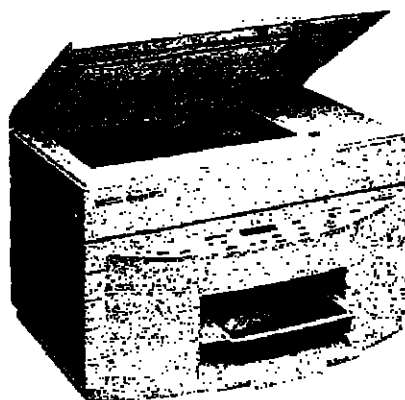
Normally the carpet of blue, white and purple attracts hundreds of visitors for a fortnight or more. The ornamental cherries expected to be in full show are just breaking bud.

"Once the mild weather comes, things will rocket," Mr Shine said. "We should see the daffodils over the holiday weekend, but not a lot of other things. It is a bit of a shame because this is traditionally a

gardeners' weekend." Jim Arbury, gardener at the Royal Horticultural Society gardens at Wisley, Surrey, said the lateness of the season had advantages. "The flowering will all come at once this year in a blaze of colour. The delay will mean less chance of frost damage and more chance of unspoiled blossoms."

The late spring was also welcomed by winemakers. Ian Berwick, chairman of the English Vineyards Association, said: "What we dread is an early spring, with a warm spell followed by late frost."

Forecast, page 22



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Pepsi flies in Concorde, two supermodels and a tennis star for added fizz at cola relaunch

True-blue message leaves media flat

BY JOE JOSEPH

THE 500 journalists who crammed into a Gatwick aircraft hangar yesterday for the relaunch of Pepsi-Cola might not have bothered to come at all without the lure of Pepsi's three advertising stars.

But luckily Claudia Schiffer, Cindy Crawford and Andre Agassi agreed to fly in to help Pepsi's rebirth and send a subliminal message to the world's youth that drinking Pepsi dramatically improves your bust, or else may leave you prematurely bald but with a great forehead.

It is said that the handful of people who know Coca-Cola's secret recipe are never allowed to fly on the same aeroplane. And here, the only 500 journalists who knew the secret of Pepsi's £330 million strategy to win the cola wars were all in the same aircraft hangar near Crawley, taking part in the biggest and most expensive press conference ever held: with a bill that was put at about £8 million. So

what is the secret? It's this: as of yesterday, Pepsi's can has turned blue.

Why? Because "blue is modern and cool, exciting and dynamic and, most importantly, it's a colour that powerfully communicates refreshment," said John Swanhaus, Pepsi's senior vice-president of international sales and marketing.

"Ultimately," he confided to the journalists from 45 countries, "we believe that owning blue will give us a significant competitive advantage in the market place."

When he says "owning blue" he merely means that by the end of next year, after Pepsi has changed every can, bottle, billboard, vending machine, delivery van and shop awning to its new livery, the world will think Pepsi and see blue, or vice-versa.

Along with Pepsi's new catchphrase of "Change The Script", the new campaign "speaks to teenagers' univer-

sal desire to shake up the status quo", said Larry McIntosh, Pepsi's vice-president of international advertising, "and encourages them to look at, and think about, Pepsi in a whole new way".

To reinforce the message Pepsi paid Air France to paint a Concorde Pepsi-blue and even the 55,000 square feet Gatwick aircraft hangar had been lined in blue velvet, giving it the air of a huge and hastily converted bordello, thronging with punters too shy to take off their clothes.

The half of the hangar in which the presentation of the new Pepsi commercials starring Crawford, Agassi and Schiffer took place was more elaborate than a Rolling Stones show, with gantries, pivoting cinema screens, dry ice and a futuristic stage that parted as miraculously as the Red Sea before Moses.

Crawford arrived on stage on a Harley-Davidson motor-bike. Schiffer in a black



Cindy Crawford, left, Andre Agassi and Claudia Schiffer sell the Pepsi message from the steps of Concorde to journalists at Gatwick yesterday

leather mini-skirt and Agassi confessing he was deeply in love with Brooke Shields.

Afterwards, the three stars moved from table to table, like those chess grandmasters who take on 50 challengers at a time, giving group inter-

views to journalists. So does Claudia actually like Pepsi? "Oh yes. It's refreshing. I like it very cold. Possibly with ice. Like when I've worked out and I need energy or something."

The only real hiccup came when Crawford refused to pose on Concorde's steps with her two co-stars. Eventually she was persuaded, after what seemed to be an exchange of opinions about Cindy's duties between Cindy's people and Pepsi's

people. So was all the expense worth it?

"Absolutely," said Bernard Kam, Pepsi's director of marketing for East Asia, who had flown a dozen journalists from China and Hong Kong to London few of whom

seemed to understand English. Was his Chinese contingent impressed by Claudia and Cindy? "Er... they are not yet well known in China."

So that's why the guys from Peking were looking so inscrutable.

Boy taken to 4 hospitals died during operation

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

A BOY of 23 months was ferried between four hospitals in one day before he died during surgery, an inquest was told yesterday.

Robert Benton, of Rowley Regis, West Midlands, was first taken to his nearest hospital, Sandwell, in West Bromwich, at 1pm on June 7 last year after his breathing worried his mother Julie, 23. The casualty unit was being refurbished and, after waiting in a corridor, Robert, his mother and father, Tim Dawes, were taken to a cubicle where a child was already being treated.

Robert's breathing was by then "noticeably bad", Miss Benton said. They decided to make the 20-minute journey to Good Hope hospital in Sutton Coldfield. He was given a priority sticker in the emergency department and examined within five minutes. He was given a chest X-ray and taken to the children's ward.

Dr Nicholas Boyd, the senior paediatrician, told his parents that Robert had a suspected collapsed lung and may have inhaled an object. Arrangements were made to transfer him to the Children's Hospital in Birmingham.

An ambulance transferred him at about 6pm and he arrived at the Children's Hospital 25 minutes later. An anaesthetist and nurse travelled with him and his mother.

"When we arrived, no one was there to meet us," Miss Benton said. "The nurse was anxious and explained there was no bed and I heard someone say the bed should have been confirmed. The ward was full and no one came over to examine Robert."

Fourteen minutes after their arrival, Miss Benton again carried Robert to the ambulance after being told that he was to be transferred across

the city to the Birmingham Heartlands Hospital. They arrived ten minutes later and were told by an anaesthetist that Robert was very ill.

Miss Benton and Mr Dawes were left outside as he was taken into the operating theatre, where he died. At a meeting with doctors later, Miss Benton was told that nothing could have been done to save his life.

Dr Edwin Borman told Birmingham Coroner's Court that doctors had fought increasingly desperately for almost an hour to keep Robert alive as he lay on the operating table attached to a ventilator. His condition deteriorated alarmingly as the surgeons carried out a bronchoscopy to try to clear the windpipe.

Doctors found nothing lodged in his windpipe. Dr Borman said it had to be recognised that "some underlying lung disease" caused the hyper-inflation of his left lung. The hearing continues.

Robert's family is represented by Stephanie Forman, who represented the family of Nicholas Geldard, the boy who died between leaving home in Stockport, Cheshire, and being transferred for treatment in Leeds.



Robert: mother feared breathing was abnormal

Curbs on dishonesty put solicitors in credit

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

TOUGH measures to curb fraud by solicitors have led to a big fall in claims by the public and the build-up of an unprecedented multimillion-pound reserve in the Solicitors' Compensation Fund.

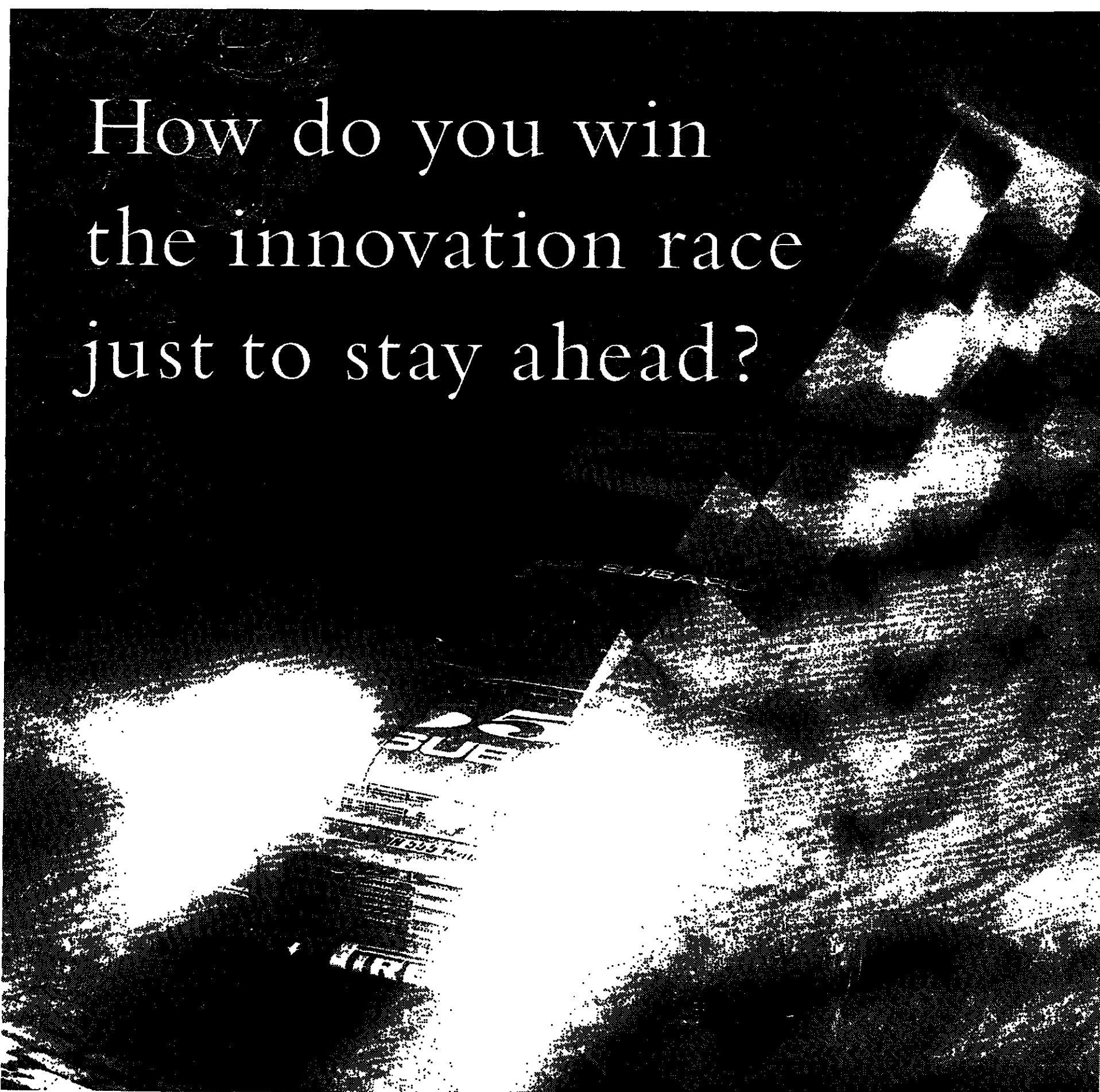
Figures show that measures taken by the Law Society in the past three years to curb dishonesty are bearing fruit. As a result, solicitors in England and Wales, who pay some £1,000 each to the compensation fund, may have their levy cut to £250, under proposals to go before the Law Society council on April 25.

The figures, to be published later this month, will show that in 1994, the fund paid out £29 million. The figure last year dropped to £18 million. Fund managers had predicted that they would need £37 million and they therefore have £18 million over. If the

big cut in the levy is endorsed by the council, the news would be widely welcome in a profession which has keenly felt the cost of carrying dishonest colleagues.

Since 1992, the Law Society has introduced a number of measures to fight dishonesty, including a hotline for firms to report colleagues who were thought to be in difficulties.

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مكتبة الامارات

Health chiefs defy drug companies in hunt for male Pill

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE World Health Organisation remains convinced that a male contraceptive pill must be found despite doubts scepticism from drug companies.

A programme funded by the health organisation has shown that weekly injections of testosterone can serve as an effective male Pill, but many hurdles remain.

"It may be physiologically possible, but is it likely to be a practical product?" Dr Trevor Jones, head of the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry, asked. "Giving millions of men a high dose of a potent steroid strikes me as unacceptable." Proving the product's safety would be costly and difficult, he says. Companies who make the female Pill have been badly burnt by the recent scare about the low-dose Pill. They have had to rethink whether they want to be involved in contraceptives at all.

However, the WHO believes that a male pill is needed and that many men would be willing to use it. The trials, in which two British research groups have been involved, were designed to test the principle, not to evaluate the regime's practicability, said Dr David Griffin, of the taskforce on the regulation of male fertility.

The trials have found that weekly injections of testosterone reduce sperm to zero within three months in two-thirds of men, and to very low levels in almost all the rest.

Dr Fred Wu, of Manchester



Dr Wu: says injections have been shown to work

University, a member of the trial team, said: "It is showing for the first time that permanent contraception for men works. It shows there is a viable method and that men are willing to use it."

The injections fool the body into believing that it is already full of the male hormone. The signal for the body to produce it comes from the pituitary gland. But if there is already a surplus in the body, the gland never issues the signal, testosterone production falls and, with it, the sperm count.

There are some side-effects. In a 1990 study involving 157 men, nine dropped out because the injections gave them acne, three because of increased aggressiveness or libido, and two because of changes to blood-fat levels.

In a letter to *The Lancet*, Dr Griffin conceded that behaviour and mood changes induced by testosterone "are a

genuine concern and need to be addressed", but added that future trials were expected to be based on female hormones which might have very different side-effects.

Dr Wu and colleagues intend to try progesterone, which is also expected to suppress the pituitary gland. To restore a normal level of testosterone in these volunteers, they will be given injections or testosterone patches.

Dr Jones suspects that individual response to the hormones will vary widely, making it hard to provide a dose that is safe. "Frankly, I don't think this is likely to be turned into a commercial product."

Professor Malcolm Potts, of the University of California at Berkeley, who has spent his entire career in family planning, told *The Lancet* that he would much rather see the money spent on a vaginal microbicide to prevent the spread of the Aids virus.



Kevin and Tracy McQuaid with Robyn and Jake, later unexpectedly joined by Kane

A real life hazard of taking part in trials

By KATE ALDERSON

A MAN who fathered a child during trials of a male contraceptive drug has now had a vasectomy to try to make sure his family is complete.

Kevin McQuaid, 40, and Tracy, 30, conceived their third child Kane, now 15 months, while taking part in World Health Organisation trials for the male Pill in 1994. Theirs was the only pregnancy among 37 British couples who volunteered for the earlier stage of the experiment.

Mr McQuaid, a housing officer, had weekly injections of the contraceptive which lowered his sperm count to the point where it was believed he would no longer be fertile. His wife then stopped taking the Pill. They were shocked when Mrs McQuaid, a psychiatric nurse from Farnsworth, Greater Manchester, discovered she was pregnant.

Despite the McQuaid's experience they are supportive of the new male contraceptive. "The drugs are a wonderful idea and men should take responsibility for contraception," Mr McQuaid said.

SATURDAY
IN THE TIMES



Alan Jackson meets kd lang



Giles Whittell on Hollywood pets

PLUS
Weekend,
1015 for young
Times readers
and *Vision*, the
seven-day TV and
radio guide

Sainsbury's. Where better to spend this Easter?

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dictates of nature must make men the second choice

ALTHOUGH some women fear that taking the Pill is unnatural, it does reproduce changes in their bodies which resemble nature's intention for their hormonal balance given that they may conceive only once or twice.

When I was at Oxford, we were lectured to by John Rock who, with Gregory Pincus, did much of the pioneering work on the Pill. The idea of oral contraception derived from the premise that as pregnant women did not conceive, giving them the hormones that circulate in pregnancy would prevent conception at other times.

The American researchers determined to find a combination of such hormones and prepare them in pill form. In this way they argued that the women would not be subjecting their bodies to anything that they had not been designed to withstand.

The Pill has side-effects similar to the less desirable symptoms of pregnancy but, as the dose has been progressively cut over the years, these have been minimised. No such rationale for a male pill can be found.

Whereas women are sometimes immune from conception because of their reproductive cycle, the male role in either the animal world or primitive human life is to impregnate whenever possible. Men are fertile at all times from the age of 14 to 60, and to a decreasing extent

beyond then. If men are to be rendered infertile by juggling with their hormones, a condition is created unlike anything in nature.

The traditional teaching has always been that giving large doses of testosterone to a patient may improve a sense of well-being and make the man stronger. But only if he is suffering from a low level of testosterone would it improve his sperm count.

For many years, it has also been taught that too high a level of testosterone can be associated with a low sperm count. Nobody knows the long-term effect additional testosterone might have on the prostate. It is known, however, that the development of cancer of the prostate is dependent on testosterone.

Although men taking regular injections of testosterone to inhibit their sperm production will have routine checks on their prostate for signs of cancer, such damage cannot be discounted. Other side-effects of high doses have included aggressiveness and acne.

I will still feel that when I recommend the female Pill that I am being cautious and scientific rather than chauvinistic. But it is expected that a more user-friendly mixture of hormones for a male Pill will eventually be developed.

DR THOMAS
STUTTAFORD

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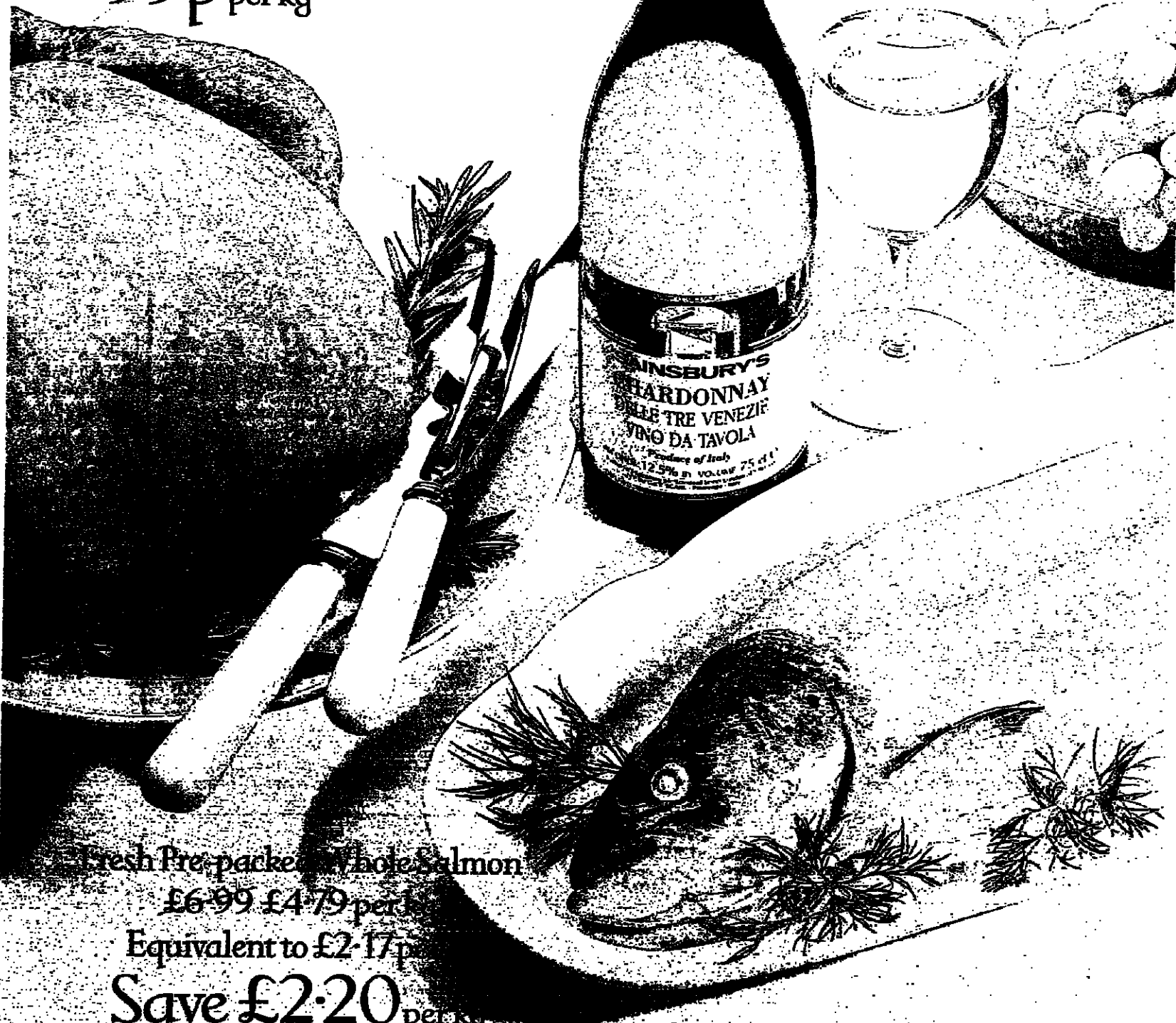
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Tourist boards are forcing a much-loved institution down unwelcome path, says consumer guide

All mod cons and trouser presses 'ruining B & Bs'

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

TOURIST board inspectors are in danger of destroying the traditional British bed and breakfast by insisting that they have telephones, television and trouser presses before being granted an official approved crown rating, the Consumers' Association says today.

Owners of some of the best B & Bs too often have to install inappropriate fittings. "What concerns us is the pressure that the boards have in recent years placed on small guest-houses continually to 'up-grade' themselves as far as facilities are concerned — pressure which in our opinion has started to have an impact on the very nature of the B & B as a much-loved and valued institution," the *Which Good Bed and Breakfast Guide* reports.

"Do guests really want a telephone or trouser press in

their rooms in, say, a farmhouse deep in the countryside, or to be offered dinner in a city centre B & B with dozens of restaurants and pubs within walking distance? Do they really care where the walls are covered with paint or wallpaper, providing of course that the establishment is clean and well decorated? We think not."

The tourist boards are now re-examining the crown grading scheme to see whether any of the criteria used could be dropped and whether there can be closer co-operation with other grading schemes such as those run by the AA and the RAC.

Britain has about 11,400 privately owned properties offering bed-and-breakfast accommodation at prices well below those charged by hotels. Although prices in some areas, such as Bath, Edinburgh or Rye, are now rising, some

bargains at £12 a night per person can still be found in coastal resorts or isolated areas.

The tourist boards have awarded one, two or three crowns to 3,433 B & Bs and only disseminate their details if they have achieved minimum standards. From this week properties in the crown scheme must pass inspections for quality and facilities. That, it is hoped, will iron out the many anomalies created by the twin-track system.

The *Which* guide says: "It has been quite possible, for example, to find a three-crown guesthouse which in terms of quality is just adequate to fair sitting right next door to a superb B & B which, because it has fewer facilities, rates just one crown."

The 1,100 B & Bs listed in the guide are inspected independently and must charge less

than £30 a person per night, the same limit as was imposed in 1992. "Our criteria for selecting a B & B for the guide include a warm welcome, cleanliness, a friendly atmosphere and wherever possible a particularly attractive location or in some cases a building that is itself of some historical or architectural interest," it says.

But the British Tourist Authority insists that its scheme is best. "There has to be some way of reflecting whether the accommodation is of a good standard. That is why we include details such as the availability of a full-length mirror, whether it is possible to get out of bed on both sides, the availability of a kettle or ironing board and the standard and quality of furnishing. Now a group from all the national boards is trying to develop a new set of criteria."



Angela Woodhams outside The Old Parsonage in West Dean, West Sussex, which has shunned the board scheme

Where monks once trod, guests hunt bathrooms

By OUR TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

ANGELA WOODHAM is one of the "old school" of bed-and-breakfast landladies. She believes in letting guests enjoy the charms of her 715-year-old house in their own way.

Televisions, en suite bathrooms and trouser presses have no place in her style of holiday accommodation, so she refuses to have anything to do with the English Tourist Board's crown classification scheme.

The owner of what is reputed to be the oldest inhabited house in England, catering for up to six guests, she prefers to rely on personal recommendation rather than on the stereotyped procedures of the board's inspectors. "We simply do not conform to their strict pattern," she said. "Our house is unique and it is very old. We can't put bathrooms in every room because it would spoil the whole feeling of the house."

The Old Parsonage in West Dean, West Sussex, was built in 1280 by monks from a nearby priory and remained in ecclesiastical ownership until 1970, when it was sold to an uncle of Mrs Woodhams. She took over in 1987 after she and her husband Raymond, a

college lecturer, returned from Kenya.

Now The Old Parsonage has been named by the Consumers' Association as one of the 20 best B & Bs in Britain and Mrs Woodhams is delighted. She charges from £50 to £65 per room per night, does not accept children under 12, bans smoking and serves only breakfast. "Each bedroom has a private bathroom or a shower, but that does not mean they are in the same room," she said.

"The rectors who lived here through the centuries had no plumbing until 1890, when it was decided to add an extra wing which would be connected to hot and cold running water. Now each room is

linked to its own private bathroom, but it could mean crossing a corridor or going up a few stairs to reach it.

"We certainly are not going to put a television in the room or a trouser press. Our guests don't want that. They come here for history and the surrounding countryside. If they wanted all the things demanded by the English Tourist Board in their rooms, they could go to some of the modern hotels near by. "Many of our guests come from America. They are thrilled when they find that they are staying in a house which was 300 years old when America was first discovered."

Top 20 B & B establishments

The top 20 B & Bs in England, Scotland, Wales and the Channel Islands according to the editors of the *Good Bed and Breakfast Guide*:
The Albannach, Lochinver, Highland; Coombe Brook Lodge, Teynton, Oxfordshire; Crede House, Groppe, Cornwall; Hermitage Manor, Canon Pyon, Hereford & Worcester; Horsleygate Hall, Holmesfield, Derbyshire; King John's Lodge, Etchingham, East Sussex; Oak Cottage, Dawlish, Devon; Old Parsonage, West Dean, West Sussex; Old Rectory, Llanfihangel Glyn Wryr, Clwyd; Pebles Guest House, Southend-on-Sea, Essex; Point Farm, Dale, Dyfed; Romney Bay House, Littlestone-on-Sea, Kent; Scott House, West Malling, Kent; Sealash Son, Inverness, Highland; Springfield, Little Thetford, Cambridgeshire; Store Cottage, Buckland Monachorum, Devon; Tilton Lodge, Tilton, Cheshire; Westfield House, Bellingham, Northumberland; Tudor Lodge Deer Farm, Forest, Guernsey; Turret Guest House, Edinburgh.

Two win £225,000 for Beck's abuse at council home

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

TWO women abused while in children's homes run by the paedophile Frank Beck were awarded damages yesterday totalling £225,000.

The High Court in Nottingham ordered Leicestershire County Council, which employed Beck as a social worker, to pay the compensation. The award in the test case will open the way to about 30 similar claims.

The women, one aged 31 and the other 36, were among seven of Beck's victims who brought actions against the council. They claimed the authority failed to provide a duty of care. Five settled out of court for undisclosed sums.

Both women were physically and emotionally abused under the guise of what Beck called "regression therapy". He was given five life sentences in 1991 and died aged 52 in prison in 1994 after a heart attack while playing badminton.

The council was in charge of three Leicestershire children's homes at which the former Marine and members of his staff abused, tortured and humiliated their charges for 13 years until 1980.

Insurers for the authority, which during the hearing admitted failing to protect victims, could now face claims for damages running into millions of pounds.

Mr Justice Potts awarded £145,000 to the older woman, who suffered three years of sex abuse, and £80,000 to the other claimant, who was in the same home for two years. The judge said that in both cases he had studied the awards given for brain damage, paraplegia and loss of limbs, because they were cases of the greatest severity.

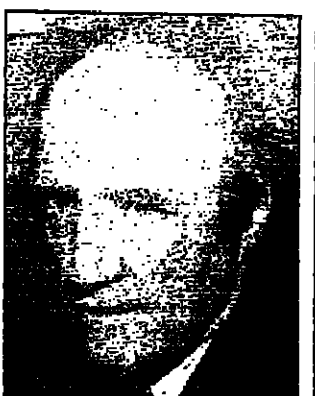
The court was told how the older woman endured sexual,

physical and emotional abuse, after Beck visited her in a mental hospital when she was 15. The woman, a self-confessed lesbian, was told by Beck: "You won't need another woman after this."

The judge said: "The use of the word torture by one doctor is entirely appropriate to describe her experience. Money can never adequately compensate these victims for what they have suffered as a result of the defendant's negligence."

During the other woman's stay at the home from the age of 15 she was bathed by male staff and forced to use baby bottles and feeder cups, and carry around a cuddly toy. She absconded 50 times and was beaten and dragged upstairs by her hair, as well as stripped for several days as a punishment. She told investigators: "I felt as if I was in a madhouse."

She said after the case that she was satisfied. But the older woman said: "I am seeing my lawyers about an appeal. I am very angry with the council. They have taken away my childhood, adolescence and now my future."



Beck: sentenced to five life terms

NEWS IN BRIEF

Child porn seized in police raids

Police launched a series of raids yesterday morning in an attempt to break a child pornography ring. Videos, magazines, drawings and letters were seized during 37 raids after warrants were obtained under the Protection of Children Act. The operation, involving 22 forces, was co-ordinated by West Mercia Constabulary.

More than 1,500 people have been arrested in France during an operation against suspected paedophiles.

Poster protests

Advertising watchdogs received 1,191 complaints about a British Safety Council poster of the Pope captioned: "The 11th Commandment: Thou shalt always wear a condom."

Verdict delayed

Judgment was reserved in the High Court case brought by the Attorney-General against the double-agent George Blake and Jonathan Cape, Blake's London publisher.

Pension plea fails

Rodney Whitehead, a former detective serving 17 years for attempted blackmail, has failed in a High Court attempt to stop his police pension from being cut by 75 per cent.

Climber killed

A climber died after falling from the 900ft Observatory Ridge on Ben Nevis. The Dutchman in his twenties was the second climber to die in Scotland in two days.

Religious bar

Alexander and Ryan Dowe were baptised in the pub at Wigganham St Germans, Norfolk, by a stand-in vicar after the twins' parents found the local church locked.

Magnet Half Price

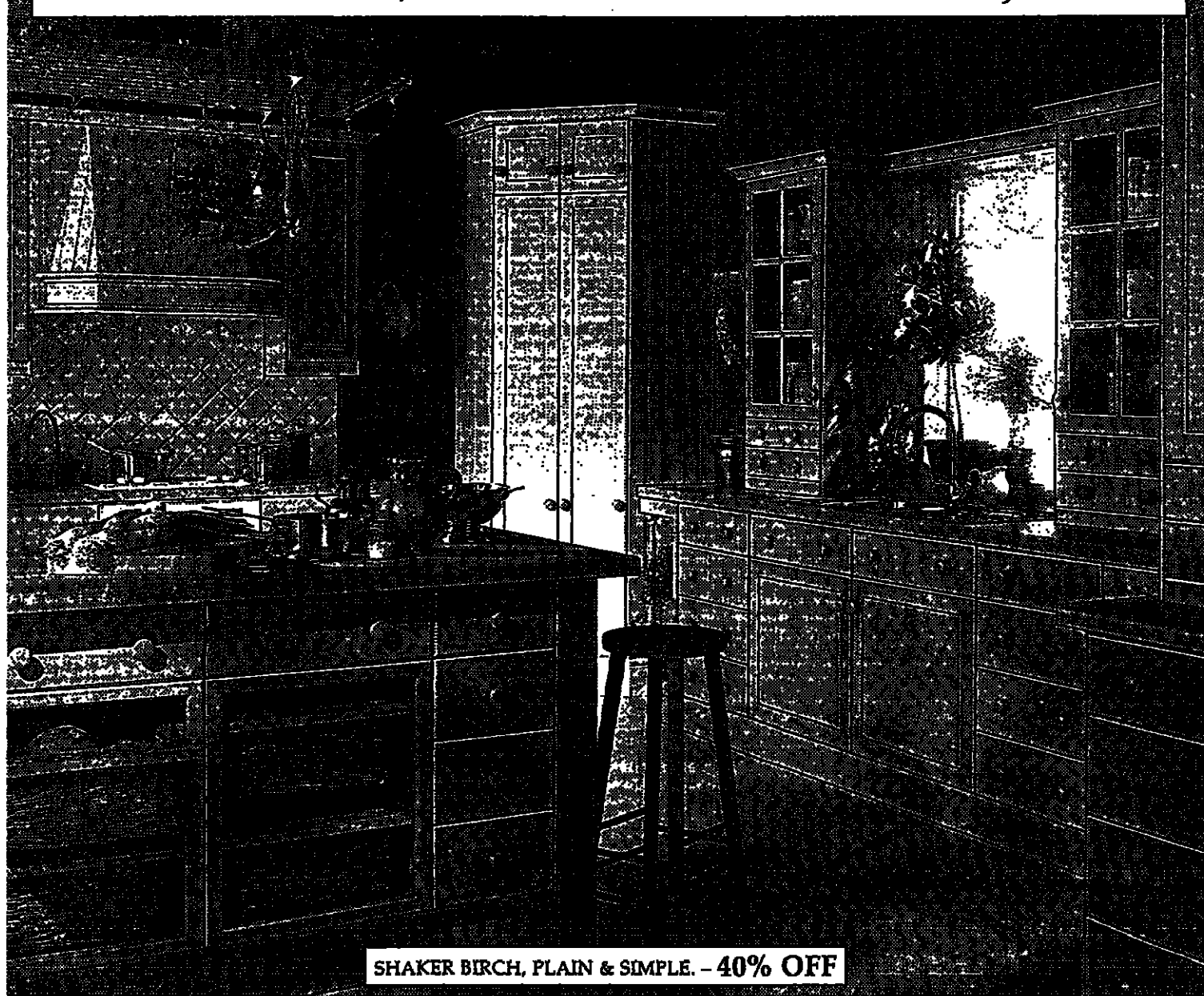
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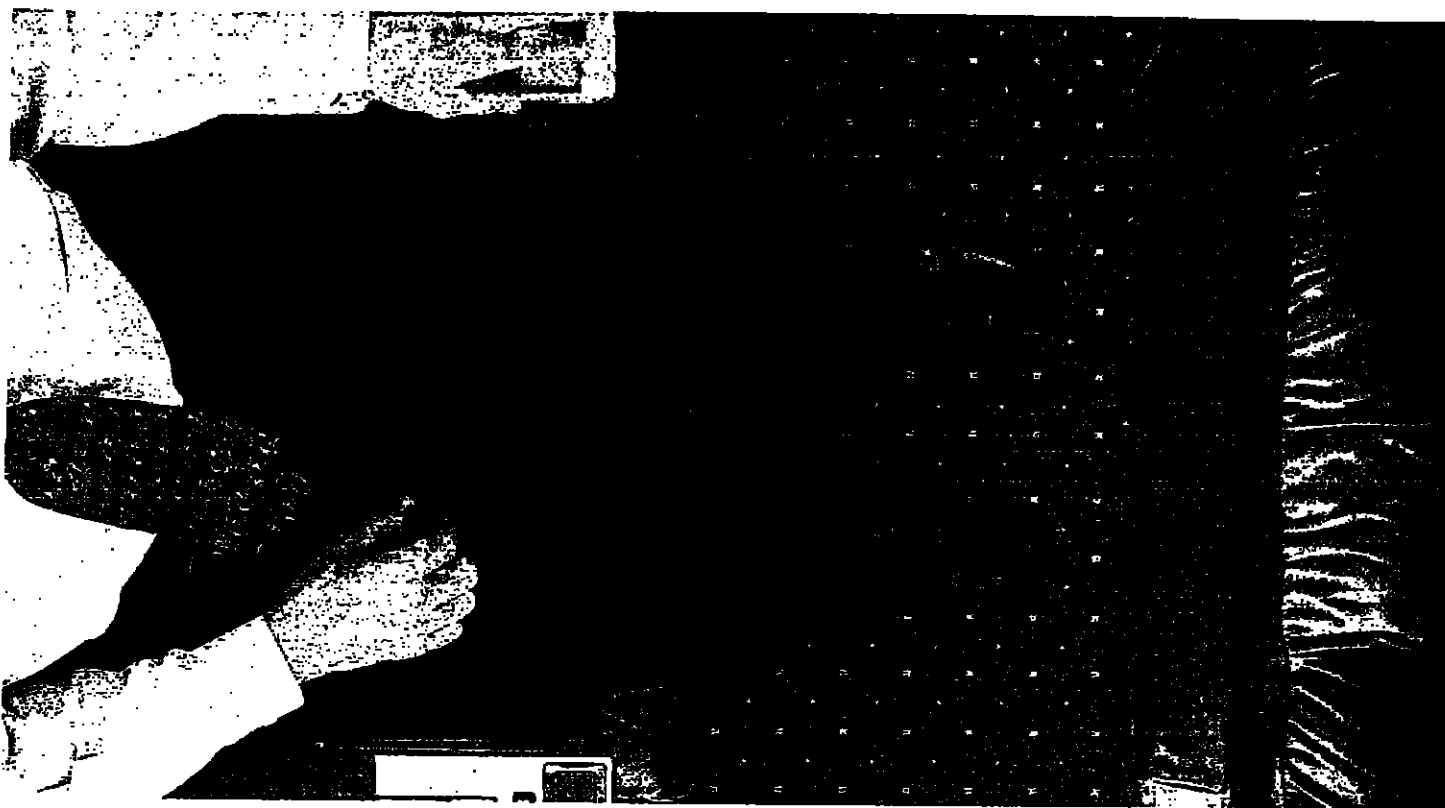
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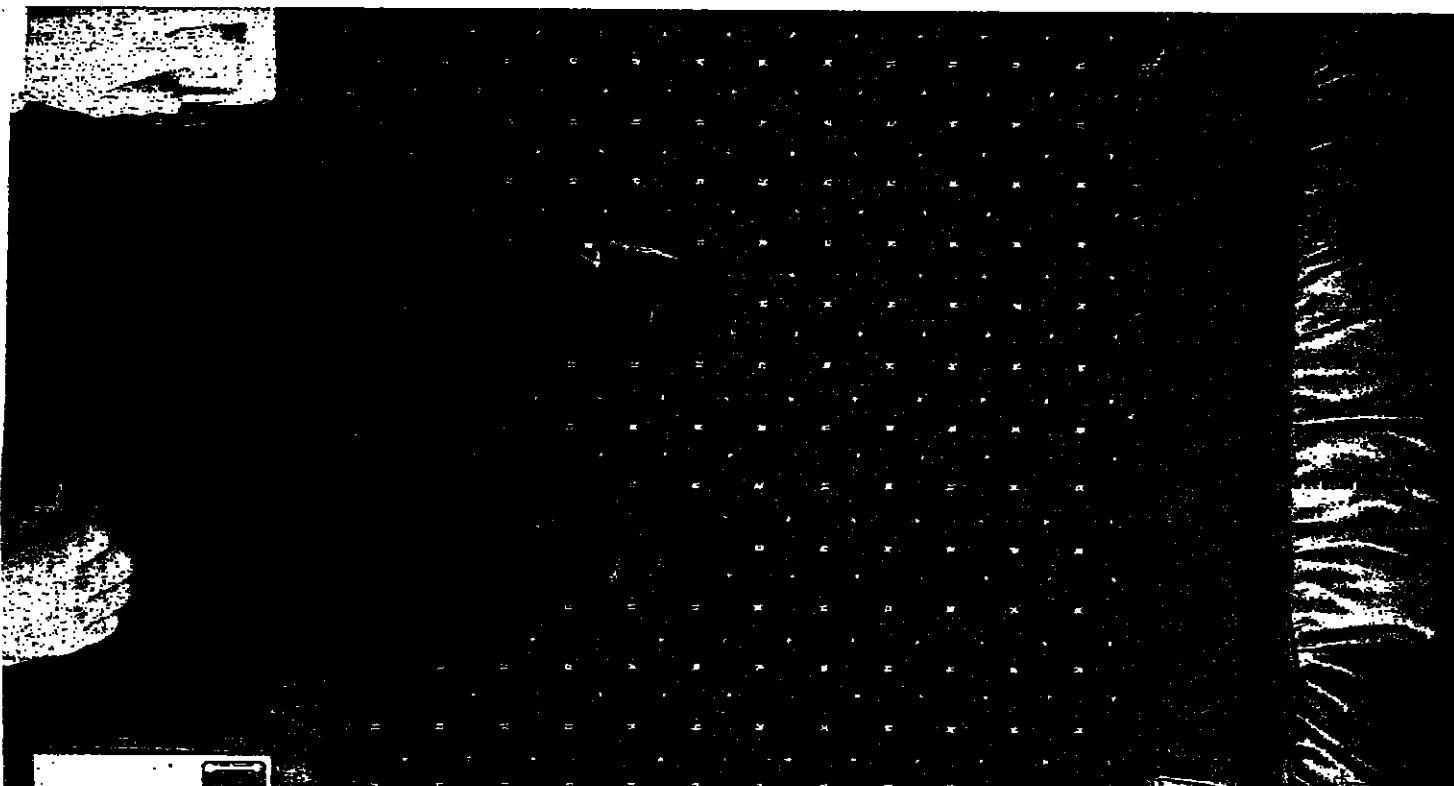
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Inspectors rebuke top school for rigid emphasis on exams

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the most successful independent schools has been criticised by inspectors from the private sector for placing too much emphasis on examinations.

Pupils at The Manchester Grammar School were not realising their full potential in some lessons because the examination syllabus was taught too rigidly, they said. But the £4.140-a-year school, where almost all pupils go to university and one in five to Oxford or Cambridge, was praised for its high academic and pastoral standards.

The inspectors added: "A minority of lessons, noticeably in departments heavily weighted to older staff, although very efficient, were too much geared to the examination and so did not release the full potential of pupils."

The school was inspected by a team from the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference, with members drawn

mostly from other independent schools but including a member of Ofsted, the Government's school inspection agency. Another leading independent, Westminster School, was criticised last September when government inspectors accused it of putting pupils under too much pressure.

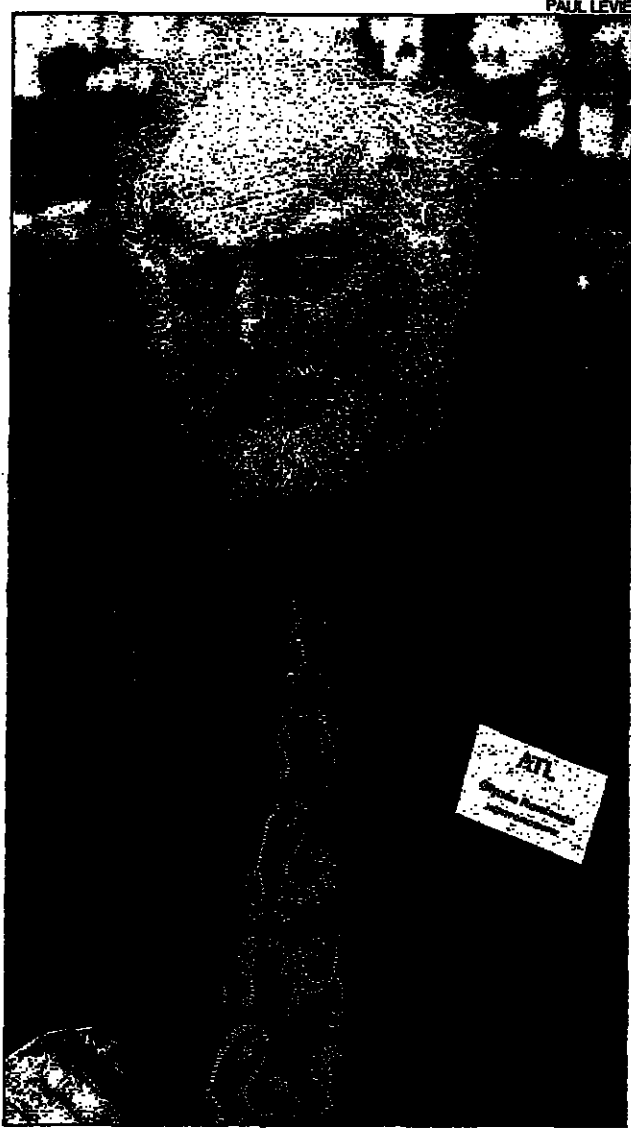
Ian Thorpe, surmaster of The Manchester Grammar School, said there was a mixed reaction from staff to the criticism. "It is perhaps not surprising that a small proportion of lessons represent a more traditional, older teacher, delivering a straight-down-the-middle lesson, which produces a lot of learning and something geared towards the examination," he said.

"We do not pretend we do not teach towards the examination, but alongside that the report praises our very broad non-examined general studies programme in the sixth form."

examination successes, with 99 per cent of GCSEs passed at grades A to C and 80 per cent of A levels at grades A or B, was even better than expected of its highly selective intake. They added that staff and student relationships were an outstanding feature.

"The involvement of porters, cleaners and other non-academic staff in the pastoral care of the school is exceptional and excellent in every way. They clearly appreciate being taken into confidence and they have an excellent relationship with the pupils."

Dick Davison, deputy director of the Independent Schools Information Service, said: "Clearly Manchester Grammar School is a school for very bright boys and it is not altogether surprising that lessons should be geared towards the demands of these pupils. Parents know it is highly selective and they know the pace there is hot."



Glynne Rowland, whose pupil admitted lying

Police held record of dropped charges

Teachers seek protection from malicious sex claims

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

A PRIMARY school teacher falsely accused of assaulting a seven-year-old girl found his name on police records more than a year after the pupil had admitted making up the story, a union conference was told yesterday.

The Association of Teachers and Lecturers demanded safeguards after being told that government guidelines which recommended that cases be investigated before suspension took place had failed to protect staff. The number of teachers suspended after malicious allegations by pupils rose rapidly after the Children Act came into force in 1991. The union's annual conference in Torquay decided to draw up its own advice to protect members.

Glynne Rowlands, a teacher for 28 years, told how he was confronted by an angry mother and a neighbour after a Christmas disco at Peartree School, Stevenage, Hertfordshire. He told delegates he had been branded a pervert because the woman's daughter

had accused him of luring her into an empty room and kissing her.

Although not suspended from his job, Mr Rowlands felt obliged to tell his wife and teenage children of the incident. A police officer who investigated the mother's complaint made plain that she believed he was guilty.

Mr Rowlands told delegates: "Fortunately, before my formal interview with the school governors, there was a telephone call because the little girl had had the courage to admit that she had made it all up. The parents came in with a box of chocolates and flowers to say they were sorry."

However, requests for an apology from the police were ignored, and Mr Rowlands found that the official register merely said that charges had been withdrawn. "There is a great deal of difference between being found innocent and charges being withdrawn," he said. Yesterday the conference said that

accounts of incidents in police files should be agreed with those involved.

The conference gave unanimous support to a motion demanding that schools review security measures in the aftermath of the Dunblane massacre and the killing of Philip Lawrence, the London headmaster. The union's Manchester branch said schools should investigate installing video cameras and panic alarms, and reduce the number of entrances where possible. School security commissions should be set up to review the options.

Sally Webster, a member of the union executive who teaches in Doncaster, told the conference that she had felt safer in her previous career as a policewoman than she did in primary schools. "I was nervous on the beat at 2am, but I knew that someone was on the end of the radio. In an isolated classroom there is nobody to help. At least give us some way of getting help, such as a small panic alarm."

Teach only 3Rs till seven, says union

By OUR EDUCATION EDITOR

THE national curriculum should be restricted to English and mathematics for the first two years at school to quell public anxiety about standards of literacy and numeracy, a teachers' union said yesterday.

Delegates to the annual conference of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers claimed that the ten-subject curriculum was preventing them from giving sufficient time to basic education.

Mike Hodgson, a member of the union's executive who teaches at Queen's Drive Primary School in Preston, Lancashire, said: "I used to hear my class read every day. Now I am lucky if I hear two children in a week because there just isn't time."

Mr Hodgson said that a primary teacher of 25 years' experience had sought his advice on an alternative career. "She told me everything she enjoyed about teaching infants had gone. I knew exactly what she meant."

A clear majority of delegates supported a motion from the union's Doncaster branch acknowledging "national concern over literacy and numeracy" and arguing that a curriculum limited to English and mathematics between the ages of five and seven was the most effective remedy.

Shirley Blackman, a primary teacher from Norfolk, disagreed. She said that a broad curriculum gave children an introduction to subjects they would study at a later age. "A lack of basic skills is not to do with the broad curriculum, but has a lot more to do with the way children come into school."

Richard Neale, an executive member from Wirral, said that parents expected young children to read aloud every day. "The pressures are such that teachers are having to spend break-times and give up lunch trying to catch up."

Maureen Williams, of Bessacarr First School, Doncaster, who proposed the motion, said that teachers did not want to abolish the national curriculum and they would still cover a broad range of subjects. "But it is essential that English and maths are the requirements and the others are guidelines."

Students 'have £200 a month to spend'

By OUR EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

STUDENTS have more money to spend, despite cuts in their grants, because of a growing reliance on parents and part-time jobs, a survey claimed yesterday.

Reaction UK, a market research company, which questioned 30,000 students, said average monthly disposable income had risen from £174 in 1994 to £203 in 1995. The company said it was generally accepted that students had to take part-time jobs, and young people from poorer backgrounds remained reluctant to attend university or college.

It said that last year 42.2 per cent of students owned a video recorder compared with 17.4 per cent in 1992, and that more than two-thirds of students owned a CD player. Car-owning students increased from 25.4 to 28.9 per cent.

Donna Spriggs, managing

director of Reaction UK, said students had more access to credit than was the case 15 years ago. "The majority own or have access to a full range of consumer goods. Most also manage to go out as much as they want." She added: "Students say they are hard-up. But if you ask what things they have or what they have spent their money on, you will see a different picture. We don't dispute that there are hard-up students."

The National Union of Students said the findings contradicted other surveys. Louise Clarke, a press officer, said: "I do not know which students they have been speaking to. Students are more hard-up than ever. The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals found a 25 per cent increase in students dropping out for non-academic reasons."

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Factory should have known of health dangers well before 1920s, Court of Appeal says

Asbestos firm loses fight against cancer payouts

By Tim Jones

A MULTINATIONAL engineering company lost its appeal yesterday against a High Court decision that it must pay £115,000 to two cancer victims who played in drifts of asbestos dust around their homes when they were children.

The decision by the Court of Appeal should ease the way for more than 20 further claims against the firm, according to the solicitor representing the widow of one of the victims.

The court found that T & N, the parent group that ran the J.W. Roberts asbestos factory in Armley, Leeds, until 1959, should have known about the dangers of asbestos dust long before the births of June Hancock in 1936 and Arthur Margereson in 1928. The High Court in Leeds had ruled earlier that the firm should pay Evelyn Margereson £50,000 for the death of her husband from mesothelioma, a cancer of the chest lining, five years ago. Mrs Hancock, who is gravely ill with the same disease, is to receive £65,000. The Court of Appeal refused the company leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

Lord Justice Russell said in his judgment that T & N had claimed it could not have known about the dangers of asbestos dust before 1933.



The J.W. Roberts factory in Leeds owed a duty of care to the surrounding residents, the court said

"The true date was much earlier, certainly long before Mr Margereson's birth," he said. "His activities as a child, therefore, as well as Mrs Hancock's, were at a time when the defendants were on actual or constructive notice as to the potential pulmonary damage that exposure to asbestos dust could bring."

The judges said that a Home Office report in 1930 had found that asbestos was linked to diseases including pulmonary and bronchial cancer, asthma, bronchitis, fibrosis and emphysema. Robin Steward, QC, for Mrs Hancock, said there was evidence going back to the turn of the century that exposure to as-

bestos dust could and did cause damage to the lungs.

The Court of Appeal found that J.W. Roberts owed a duty of care not only to its employees but also to people living in the terraced houses surrounding the plant. Lord Justice Russell said the High Court evidence was overwhelming that asbestos dust was deposited in enormous quantities outside the walls of the factory, which operated from the late 19th century.

A number of witnesses had told of visiting the loading bays when they were children and of jumping up and down on bales of asbestos which would sometimes burst open. One spoke of children playing

snowballs with the dust. Asbestos fibres clung to the window mesh and, by the end of a shift, employees were so covered with dust that they were nicknamed "Abominable snowman" and "Feather leg".

John Pickering, the solicitor acting for Mrs Margereson, said a further 22 claims had been lodged against T & N. "Success in this case makes me a good deal more confident about future claims."

T & N, formerly Turner & Newall, said: "Although there may be other claims in the future arising out of the Armley factory, it is unlikely there will be many. The financial consequences of this decision, and any such future cases, will be very limited."

Mrs Hancock told BBC Radio 5 Live: "I'm absolutely delighted. It's a great satisfaction being able to stand up to them. It's been very tiring. It's taken its toll occasionally, but it's been worth it and there's nothing like a fight to get the adrenalin going. They've probably extended my life."

Mrs Margereson, who is recovering from a stroke, said: "My husband started this and I have finished it. When he brought this case he was fighting for what he believed in and I just hope that what we have achieved means that nobody else has to go through what we went through."



June Hancock, who is gravely ill with mesothelioma, is to receive £65,000

Welsh PC cracks crime in Caymans

By a Staff Reporter

A POLICEMAN from the Welsh Valleys has won an award for smashing a crack cocaine gang in the Cayman Islands.

PC Bob Chambers was one of 17 officers chosen from 3,000 applicants who responded to an advertisement in *Police Review* for a two-year secondment to the British colony.

PC Chambers, 31, from Penrhys, organised a six-month surveillance of a family that hooked children on crack cocaine and then sent them out to steal. His certificate of commendation from the islands' police commissioner was in recognition of his bravery. PC Chambers had organised a firearms unit to track cocaine barons who were threatening the reputation of the Caymans as a trouble-free tourist haven.

Three leading criminals and several youngsters behind robberies and attacks on tourists were arrested. The bosses were jailed for between two and four years and more than 130 crimes were solved.

PC Chambers, the fourth generation of his family to serve with the police, said: "Normal law and order did not apply there and I had to be armed to go on the streets. But I was trained in the Rhondda and that is where you'll find the best policing in the world."

West judges urge review of media money for witnesses

By Richard Duce

PAYMENTS by the media to witnesses in criminal trials could put justice at risk, three Court of Appeal judges said yesterday when they explained why they had upheld ten murder convictions against Rosemary West.

Such payments were held not to have prejudiced the case against her, but the judges urged the Attorney-General to review the practice. Lord Taylor of Gosforth, the Lord Chief Justice, sitting with Mr Justice Mitchell and Mr Justice Newman, expressed concern that at least six prosecution witnesses in last year's trial at Winchester Crown Court had been paid by newspapers or broadcasting companies for exclusive interviews.

Explaining why they refused West leave to appeal last month, the judges said that the contracts with the media "did not, in the circumstances of this case, render the verdicts unsafe". However, they believed the payment or promise of payment to witnesses before trial "in some circumstances could put justice at risk. The whole issue of media payments to witnesses requires to be reviewed - whether they should be prohibited, or if allowed, at what stage of proceedings and with what, if any, control."

Richard Ferguson, QC, for West, 42, had said that the media contracts rendered the

witnesses' evidence "tainted and suspect". There had been a temptation to exaggerate in court to make their contracts more valuable.

The appeal judges rejected the argument that West had not received a fair trial because of insufficient evidence, sensational media coverage, the admission of evidence about her sex life and inadequate directions to the jury by Mr Justice Mantell.

West was jailed for life for murdering nine girls and young women at the house in Cromwell Street, Gloucester, she occupied with her husband - who killed himself in jail - and a girl at a previous address in Gloucester. The judge recommended she never be released.

Law Report, page 20



West media contracts did not prejudice case

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Labour MPs rebel over rushing of anti-terror law

By JILL SHERMAN, RICHARD FORD AND MICHAEL EVANS

THIRTY-ONE Labour MPs defied the party leadership last night by opposing a government measure to rush through anti-terrorist legislation.

The rebel MPs, led by Kevin McNamara, voted against a motion that speeded up a Bill to extend police powers to stop and search. But the Government easily secured support for its efforts to ensure that all the Commons stages went through last night.

The guillotine motion was passed by 256 votes to 44, a majority of 212. The Government was also expected to win a second reading vote.

Mr McNamara, a former Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, and 30 colleagues ignored the Labour leadership's call to abstain and instead joined the Liberal Democrats in opposing the Bill, which amends the Prevention of Terrorism Act, because they fear an IRA Easter bombing campaign.

Police and security forces have intelligence warnings of

possible IRA attacks on the mainland using small incendiary devices. Police chiefs asked for special measures that had been drawn up as a contingency plan during the IRA ceasefire.

MIS and RUC Special Branch officers in Northern Ireland have been trying to anticipate the timing and location of the next phase of the IRA's bombing campaign. The republican movement's traditional obsession with anniversaries has reinforced fears of imminent attacks. This weekend is the anniversary of the 1916 Easter rising.

The legislation put forward yesterday will enable police to search pedestrians in a designated area, search listed non-residential premises and freight at ports, cordon off areas and impose temporary parking bans. Anyone who refuses to be searched will be liable to a 6-month jail sentence and/or a £5,000 fine.

Police will provide anyone halted under the new "stop and search" powers with a written statement explaining why they have been searched.

Officers throughout Britain will be advised on how to use the new powers without causing offence.

Any decision to declare a designated area will be taken by an officer of assistant chief constable rank or above. There will be no restrictions on the size of the area, but within 48 hours the Home Secretary must authorise both the scale and length of time in which the new powers operate. The maximum period is 28 days, which can be renewed for a further 28 days.

One senior police officer said: "We are not going to do this willy nilly. There is no intention by the police to designate areas unless there is good intelligence or a reasonable suspicion that a terrorist act is imminent or to prevent one taking place."

"The intention behind this is to give us some power, over a short emergency to deal with an extraordinary situation. We clearly realise any sort of implementation of these powers is going to cause some public disruption or concern."

Mr McNamara told the

Commons yesterday that the Government had known for a fortnight that it wanted to introduce the "stop and search" powers. He warned his Labour colleagues that they were pushovers in agreeing to go ahead with the timetable for the Bill.

"It is quite outrageous that here we have very serious incursions into people's normal civil liberties and we're only going to have two hours to discuss them."

Alan Beith, deputy leader of the Liberal Democrats, said that the Government could have achieved its aim by publishing the Bill last week, allowing some time for consultation this week. "The Government have already decided the precise form which the Bill should be. And whenever governments decide that, they get it wrong."

"This Government has a record of making mistakes. This Home Secretary has a record of making mistakes," he added. "It is government by decree — take it or leave it. The police and the public will pay the price for that."



Bottomley rules out mid-week lottery

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY ruled out the prospect of introducing a mid-week National Lottery draw yesterday.

Camelot, the lottery operator, has suggested that an extra weekly draw could generate more money for good causes but Mrs Bottomley, National Heritage Secretary, said: "I would need some convincing that there's a huge untapped potential there for more people to be drawn in. I don't see a need at present to encourage new games."

Giving evidence to the National Heritage Select Committee, she came under pressure from Tory MPs for reassurance that there would not be further "blurring" of the line between lottery funding for capital projects and traditional funding for heritage, sports and the arts from central and local government. She conceded that the lottery distribution bodies had to examine a "grey area" covering activities that would be funded by public money "in a good year" but not when resources were stretched.

Another success for Major's balancing act

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

THE Cabinet debate over a referendum on a single currency was in danger of turning into something quite different — an argument over the Tory party's attitude towards Europe. It will be defused, at least temporarily, at this morning's meeting of the Cabinet with an announcement later from Conservative Central Office about a referendum pledge in the election manifesto.

On the referendum itself, there are divisions of principle, with an influential minority strongly against. This dispute is not, of course, a simple proxy for the debate over a single currency. Some opponents of the latter are also against the former, and vice versa. Moreover, in a speech later today to the European Policy Forum, Ian Lang, one of the Cabinet's pillars, will argue that completing and reinforcing the single market is Britain's biggest priority in Europe and should not be confused with a single currency. He will say that a single currency is not necessary to make a success of the single market.

A clear majority has, nonetheless, emerged in the Cabinet that a single currency is such an important constitutional and economic issue that the promise of a referendum is justified. That view is held by John Major and several of his close political allies, by Malcolm Rifkind, and by those, including a number of pro-Europeans, who dislike referendums in general and are dubious about whether an announcement will get the Government out of its current political predicament. Party managers want a public pledge to head off the threat of Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party even though he and hard-core Tory sceptics want a referendum now on Britain's relations with Europe.

In the past few days there has been, in the words of one senior minister close to Mr Major, an almost inexorable progress towards a commitment on a referendum. No one seriously believes that a British Government of whatever party would take Britain into a single currency without holding a referendum. The

question is partly one of presentation.

How tightly will the promise of a referendum be stated? Will it be only after the Cabinet and Parliament have approved entry? Will ministers have to maintain collective responsibility with dissenters having to resign? Will the intention to leave open the question of joining a single currency (the British opt-out/opt-in in the Maastricht treaty) be firmly restated to prevent any later closing off of this option for the next Parliament?

The opposition to a referendum expressed by Kenneth Clarke has not just been on constitutional principle or even a political worry that the announcement of a future referendum would exacerbate divisions within the Tory party. Other Cabinet colleagues, such as Michael Heseltine, Sir Patrick Mayhew, John Gummer and Sir George Young, hold these views. They also do not see the political advantages. Mr Clarke has been worried that the announcement of a referendum could be seen, both in the Tory party and in the rest of Europe, as a yet another concession to the sceptics after so many previous ones. It might undermine Britain's position in the negotiations about the shape of monetary union and would send a general signal that the sceptics are winning.

Mr Clarke and Mr Heseltine had acted as a block on any decision on a referendum. But the stakes were raised by the decision to commission the study by Mr Rifkind. Mr Major has survived in office so far by not making a choice on Europe but by balancing the two factions. He appears to have succeeded yet again. Today's announcement will be carefully presented as a manifesto decision for a Government in the next Parliament, rather than any change in the current opt-out policy. There will be plenty more battles to come on Europe.

PETER RIDDELL

Benefit fraud crackdown

SINGLE mothers will be docked 40 per cent of their weekly benefit until their children grow up unless they tell the Child Support Agency who fathered them, the Government said yesterday.

Andrew Mitchell, a Social Security Minister who made the announcement, accused 50,000 women of "cocking a snook" at taxpayers by withholding the names of their former partners. His sanction

for single mothers is much harsher than expected. Until now mothers who refused to co-operate with the CSA had their benefit docked for only 18 months. Now they will have to name the father or bring up their child with a weekly benefit cut of £20.

The proposal will outrage campaigners against poverty who say it will be particularly harsh on the children of battered women.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: questions to defence ministers and the Prime Minister; all stages of the Prevention of Terrorism (Additional Powers) Bill, in the Lords: Dangerous Dogs (Amendment) Bill, Chemical Weapons Bill, Arbitration Bill, Deer (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill. TODAY in the Commons: Easter adjournment debate; backbench debates; questions to Foreign Office ministers; questions on London Regional Transport Bill; social security orders. In the Lords: Prevention of Terrorism (Additional Powers) Bill, all stages.

Both Houses will rise for the Easter recess, the Lords returning on Monday, April 15, and the Commons on April 16.

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Clinton named in 'plot to milk \$3m from Government'

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

A CONSPIRACY to milk federal lending banks of \$3 million (£1.97 million) was hatched at a kitchen table in Arkansas between three close associates of President Clinton, according to his chief accuser.

David Hale, a former Arkansas political insider and the star witness in the Whitewater trial, has testified that in 1985 he sat at the table with Jim Guy Tucker, Mr Clinton's successor as Governor, and James McDougal, the Clintons' partner in the failed land deal, and concocted a plot to use a property deal to funnel money into his federal-backed finance company.

From there the funds were to be transferred in the form of a loan to Mr Tucker and Mr McDougal, and his former wife Susan, who are all charged with conspiracy to defraud Madison Guaranty, the bank at the centre of the Whitewater affair.

Hale, the only witness to have claimed firsthand know-

ledge of Mr Clinton having been involved in a crime, has been giving evidence for the first time in Little Rock to describe the evening when the three men met around Mr Tucker's table.

Hale said that Mr McDougal had told them: "I'm going to need some funds and



Hale says plot hatched around kitchen table

Jim Guy's going to need some funds and we're going to have to clean up some members of the political family."

He said talk of the "political family" was a direct reference to Mr Clinton, then Governor of Arkansas. That involved Bill Clinton and maybe some of his aides and political associates, and Jim Guy Tucker, he told the court.

Mr and Mrs McDougal were partners in the Whitewater Development Company and investigators have said that some money from the deals made by Hale and Mr McDougal were placed for a time in the Whitewater account.

Evidence given by Hale, which is likely to last for much of a week and is central to the case being brought by Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, was yesterday expected to include evidence that Mr Clinton was at a meeting where part of the scheme was discussed.

According to the former banker, Mr Clinton put pressure on him to make a \$300,000 loan to Mrs McDougal in 1986, a story that the President has described as "a bunch of bull".

Hale was sentenced last week to 28 months in prison for fraud as part of a plea-bargain deal with Mr Starr. He has been in hiding since agreeing to co-operate with prosecutors in the Whitewater case two years ago.

Hale explained to the jury that under the scheme Madison Guaranty, Mr McDougal's company, would make a \$500,000 loan to buy land that he, Hale, owned. In turn, Hale would place the money into Capital Management Services, his small finance firm, and thereby qualify for \$1.5 million in federal funds from which he would make loans to Mr McDougal and Mr Tucker.

By the time they left Mr Tucker's house, said Hale, "we had agreed on what our duties were and what we were going to do". The plan involved the sale of the property at an inflated price. Hale would inject the profits into his company and the Small Business Administration would match the funds by three to one.

'Sex trio' hoaxers trick TV talk show

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

A TALK show that thrives on the bizarre and often humiliating confessions of its guests has been made the laughing stock of American television by three Canadian hoaxers.

Posing as a wronged wife, a faithless husband and a seductive babysitter, the phony guests appeared last year on the nationally syndicated *Jerry Springer Show*, which believed their story "hook, line and sinker" and, according to the hoaxers, never checked it.

Heavily criticised in recent months as a thinly disguised freak show that takes advantage of troubled misfits, the programme sued the Canadians for \$50,000 in damages. Last week it reached a verbal out-of-court settlement to try to avoid an embarrassing trial.

The hoax was prompted by an on-show request for volunteers willing to confess on air to their wives that they had been sleeping with their children's teenage babysitter.

The prospect of seeing his friends on a *Jerry Springer* episode entitled "Honey, Have I Got A Secret For You?" was too much for Ian Sirota, a stand-up comedian from Toronto, to resist. Impersonating his flat-mate and fellow comedian, Johnny Gardhouse, he telephoned the producers saying he was indeed having an affair with his *au pair*.

The men recruited friends to play the fearful wife and defiant seductress, and "the next thing we knew we're at the airport, flying to Chicago" at the programme's expense, one hoaxer said. According to court papers filed in response to the programme's lawsuit, its producers never checked references and persuaded Mr Gardhouse to go through with his "confession" even when he said it would devastate his family and tried to back out.

Producers argued it would be safest to make the confession on television, since at home his "wife" might turn violent, the court papers allege. Suzanne Muir, "the wife", also claims the programme tried to dupe her into thinking it would offer a way to restore romance to her marriage.

Multimedia, the company that produces this and similar programmes, has fired two *Jerry Springer Show* producers but denies it coerced or lied to guests.



Clint Eastwood, 65, and television presenter Dina Ruiz, 30, who were married in a private ceremony in Las Vegas on Sunday, arriving for a Golden Globes Awards ceremony in Los Angeles. It is his second marriage and her first

WORLD SUMMARY

Briton 'held for ransom'

Phnom Penh: Christopher Howes, the British mine disposal expert abducted in northwest Cambodia, is alive and being held for ransom. Prince Norodom Ranariddh, Cambodia's First Premier, said, Mr Howes was not in the hands of the Khmer Rouge, as was feared, but defectors from the left-wing movement illegally logging near the tourist town of Siem Reap. He ruled out military action to free the Briton. (Reuters/AP)

Albania offered US military aid

Tirana: America is offering more than \$100 million (£65 million) in military aid to Albania, William Perry, the US Defence Secretary, said. He told a press conference here that the package would include anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles, adding: "We do not have plans at this time to set up military bases in Albania." (AFP)

Baseball umpire dies at game

New York: The baseball season's opening day was marred when a popular umpire died of a heart attack before 53,000 at Cincinnati Reds' stadium (Quentin Letts writes). John McSherry, 51, was a 322lb New Yorker. The televised game against Montreal Expos was abandoned.

Taiwan delays war games

Taipei: Taiwan, responding to American and domestic concerns, has put off until June 30 war games on an island near mainland China "to avoid any misunderstanding and to ease tensions", the Taiwan Defence Ministry said. (Reuters)

Dunkirk spirit

Lille: The mayors of the Palestinian coastal city of Gaza and Dunkirk have twinned, with the prospect of the Channel port city contributing to Gaza job creation projects. (Reuters)

President questioned about Yeltsin 'pact'

BY TOM RHODES

THREE Republican leaders want to know if President Clinton agreed to frame American policies to favour the re-election chances of President Yeltsin when the two men met last month.

In a letter to the White House requesting full disclosure of talks between the leaders during the terrorism summit at Sharm el Sheikh in Egypt, the Republicans say reports that Mr Clinton and Mr Yeltsin agreed a mutual re-election pact were contrary to American interests. "We are alarmed by any suggestion that your policy toward the Russian elections may be tainted by domestic partisan political considerations," they say.

The document was signed by Ben Gilman, the chairman of the House international relations committee, Henry Hyde, chairman of the judiciary committee, and William Clinger, chairman of the government reform and oversight

committee. It asks for all documents relating to the conversation on March 13 as well as communications between Arkansas poultry farmers and the Clinton Administration about a Russian ban on imports of American chickens.

In a leaked State Department cable paraphrasing the conversation, Mr Clinton seems to drop all pretence of neutrality in the Russian election process, promising "positive" American policies to help Mr Yeltsin. He specifically asks the Russian leader to avoid "negative" disputes such as the poultry ban.

In another alleged conversation, published last week in *Zavtra*, a Russian opposition newspaper, the two presidents are shown as having few qualms about helping each other electorally. "At this time we have to... support each other on the eve of the presidential elections," Mr Yeltsin is quoted as saying.



Reeve will speak the part of King Arthur

Reeve starts new film

New York: Christopher Reeve, the paralysed actor, is going back to work. Mr Reeve, a quadriplegic since a horse-riding accident last year, will speak the part of King Arthur in *The Quest for Camelot*, a cartoon (Quentin Letts writes). The former *Superman* star speaks only with the aid of a respirator and has to pause between sentences while the machine pumps air into his lungs. Recording will begin in the summer.

TV crew films Californian police hitting suspects

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT CLINTON has ordered the Justice Department to investigate an incident in which two Californian policemen were filmed allegedly beating up suspected illegal immigrants after a lorry chase at speeds of up to 100mph.

Riverside County sheriff's deputies finally stopped a battered, rusty lorry, crammed with at least 20 men and women, after it had been pursued by several police cars on a motorway.

A television news helicopter filmed one officer delivering at least six blows with a nightstick to one suspect even after the man was lying face down on the ground. The officer then grabbed a woman by the hair, pulling her from the cab, and beating her as reinforcements arrived to handcuff the pair, who appeared to offer no resistance. The television pictures showed that at least one other officer hit the woman.

The two deputies have been suspended from active duty

and placed on "administrative leave", pending the outcome of an investigation, officials said. Their names were not released, but the department said one has been in the force for 21 years, the other for five years. The suspected illegal immigrants are Mexican and the deputies are white.

Civil rights leaders said the incident evoked memories of the 1991 videotaped beating of Rodney King, a black motorist by four white Los Angeles police officers. The officers' acquittals on state charges in 1992 prompted riots in Los Angeles.

"We're very concerned about what we saw on videotape," Sergeant Mark Lohman, of the Riverside Sheriff's Department, east of Los Angeles, told a television station. Asked if what he saw on the videotape was a demonstration of excessive force, Sgt Lohman said: "We use force when it's reasonable, necessary and justified... You

never know what's going through somebody's mind when they've gone through a lengthy pursuit."

Citing an "outcry from the public", Sgt Lohman said: "We're very embarrassed and we are seriously concerned about the actions of our officers."

Local television stations were flooded with calls. "It's another Rodney King," said Ramona Ripston, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California.

The chase began when the Immigration and Naturalisation Service had tried to stop the lorry at a checkpoint. As many as 20 people jumped out and ran after the vehicle stopped on the shoulder of the motorway in the Los Angeles suburb of El Monte. They were rounded up by police and immigration officers after fleeing into a plant nursery. They are being held at a detention centre in Los Angeles.

Backpacker trial told of 'bondage motive'

Sydney: The serial killing of two Australian backpackers involved a "severe degree of force" and indicated sex or bondage was a motive, a pathologist testified yesterday.

Dr Peter Bradhurst said the fact that the zipper on the trousers of James Gibson was undone and the button done up indicated "a possible sexual aspect to the death". He said a pair of pantyhose that had slipped knots tied in each leg, found near the body of Deborah Everist, indicated a bondage aspect to the death.

Ivana Milat, 51, has pleaded not guilty to murdering Britons Joanne Walter, 22, and Caroline Clarke, 21, and five others. Their bodies were found in makeshift graves in the Belanglo forest, 65 miles southwest of Sydney in New

South Wales' southern highlands. Mr Milat also has pleaded not guilty to kidnapping and robbing a British hitchhiker, Paul Onions, on January 25, 1990.

Gibson and Everist disappeared from Sydney in December 1989. Almost four years later their remains were found covered with leaves, branches and soil. Dr Bradhurst said Everist's injuries included four head wounds consistent with being caused by a sharp instrument, two head fractures, a fractured jaw and a rib stab wound. She died of multiple injuries. A severe degree of force would have been required to cause her injuries. Dr Bradhurst said. The pantyhose found near her body could have been used as a constraint. (AP)

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Hutus drive Tutsis out of Zaire in 'ethnic cleansing'

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

HUTU militiamen and Zairean soldiers have launched a pogrom against Tutsis in Zaire, driving hundreds of refugees into Rwanda. United Nations officials said yesterday.

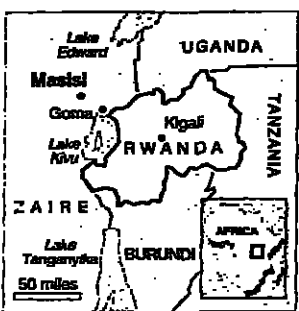
In the week marking the second anniversary of the genocide of a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates in Rwanda, the "ethnic cleansing" of Zairean Tutsis opens a new chapter in attempts by Hutu extremists to establish a tribally pure homeland inside Zaire. Richard Danziger, co-ordinator for the UN's International Organisation of Migration, said that 350 Tutsis had crossed into Rwanda each day since last Thursday, and more than 1,000 have been camped in a centre designed to aid Hutu refugees returning to Rwanda.

The fugitives, mostly Zairean-born Tutsis, have been forced to leave their homes which have been taken over by Hutus from Rwanda, and other neighbouring tribes. The Tutsis are descendants of a people cut off from Rwanda when Belgian colonists redrew the African kingdom's maps and sliced off

Kivu for the then Belgian Congo, or refugees from successive massacres in Rwanda since 1959.

Aid officials said it was clear that Hutu extremists, who have vowed to "finish the Tutsis", are bent on setting up a "Hutustan" from which to launch attacks inside Rwanda. Aid workers have found access to burnt out villages and hospitals almost impossible in Masisi, Zaire's most productive farming area, which has been cut off by the Hutus and their allies in the Zairean army since last December.

The hospital in Masisi, the central hospital for the zone, was recently pillaged and is now no longer operational.

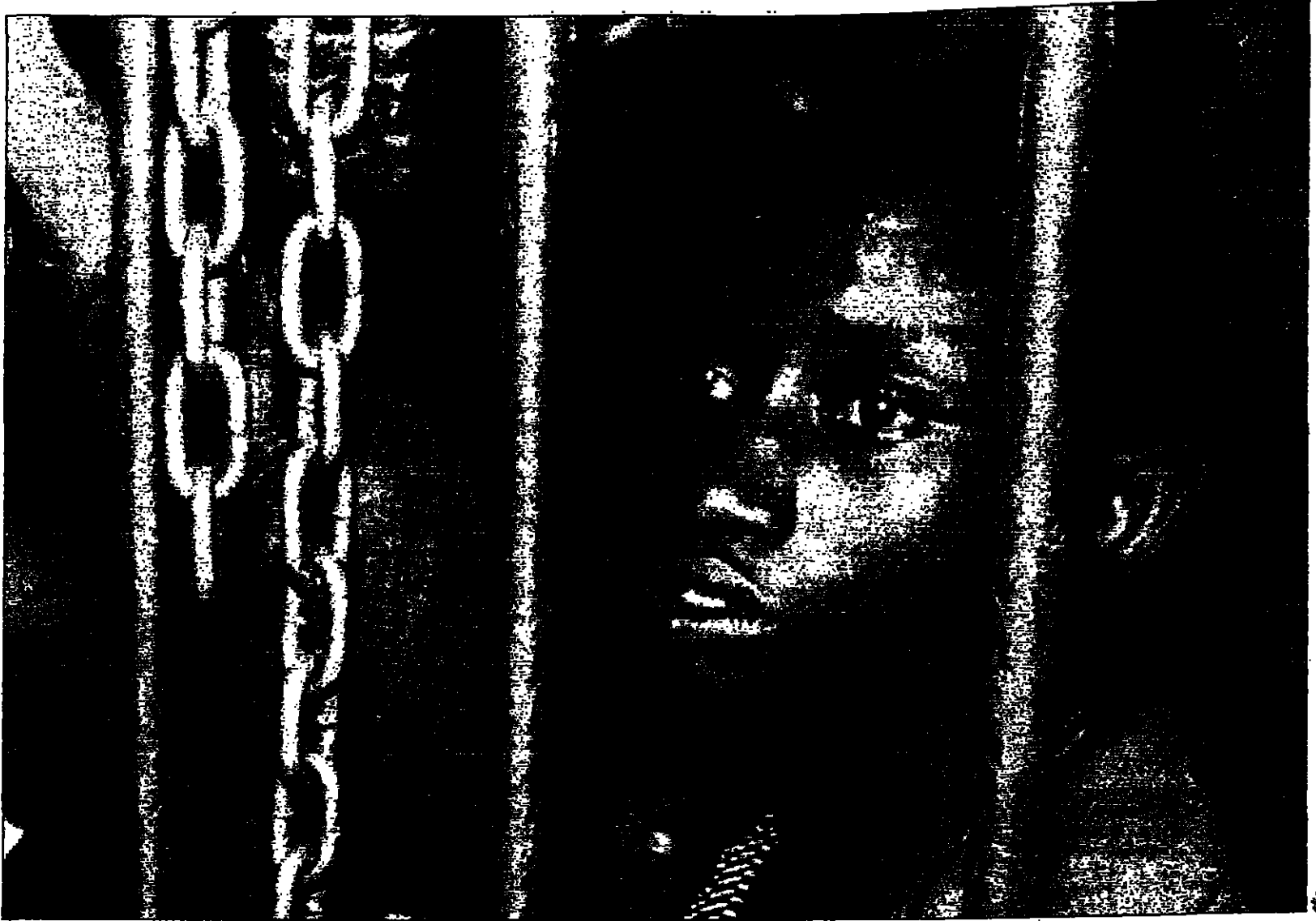


The area to the west of Masisi town is also inaccessible due to the ongoing violence. The conflict is spreading throughout Masisi zone, a UN security report said.

Tribal clashes between Tutsis, Hutus and the local Hunde tribe have been common for the last 20 years, but since the exodus of two million Hutus fleeing retribution for the genocide in Rwanda in 1994, the killing of Tutsis has risen sharply.

The rolling hills and farms have become a war zone through which Tutsis flee at night to safety in Rwanda 50 miles away. Statistics on how many have perished are impossible to come by, but hundreds of burnt down homesteads are testimony to the Hutu intentions, aid workers said after recently returning from Masisi.

About 50,000 Tutsis are believed to have lived in Masisi among 600,000 Hutus and Hunde tribesmen. Tutsi refugees said that they expected those who managed to escape to follow them to safety in Rwanda. The status of the Tutsis from Zaire remains vague as many have long



A 12-year-old boy held at Gitarama Prison is among 1,000 children in Rwandan jails accused of taking part in the 1994 massacre of Tutsis

refused Zairean citizenship and have been considered to be refugees. However, if they manage to return to Rwanda they do not qualify for farmland and other handouts for

returning refugees because they cannot prove that they are Rwandan citizens. □ Bagambwira Antoine Nduwayo, Burundi's Prime Minister, has ruled out direct talks

between his Government and Hutu rebels after pressure from American and European Union aid donors for such dialogue. UN human rights officials have said Burundi is

suffering from "genocide by attrition", with the Tutsi-dominated army and Hutu rebels routinely slaughtering civilians in reprisal for attacks. More than 100,000 people

have been killed in Burundi since October, 1993 when renegade Tutsi soldiers assassinated Melchior Ndadaye, the country's first freely elected Hutu President. (Reuters)

Islanders fail to dislodge their British Governor

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

A DELEGATION from a tiny British dependency in the Caribbean was given a sharp rebuff yesterday by the Foreign Office, which rejected out of hand its petition to have the British Governor sacked.

Sir Nicholas Bonsor, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, told Derek Taylor, the Chief Minister, and five Cabinet and Opposition leaders from the Turks and Caicos Islands, that he had no intention of removing Martin Bourke. They had accused the Governor of trampling on their feelings and showing "intolerable disrespect" for the opinions of political, religious and community leaders.

Sir Nicholas also told them their threat of violence was unacceptable and that Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, would not accept petitions if they were accompanied by the kind of threats made recently by the islands' politicians. Their allegations were "without substance" and their other complaints about the Governor's behaviour were, he suggested, laughable.

The Government told the delegation it was determined to enforce law and order and stamp out the trade in drugs on the islands. It added that it fully backed Mr Bourke in his efforts to maintain good government. "He will, therefore, remain in office," Sir Nicholas declared in his letter.

The politicians' main com-

plaint was that Mr Bourke wrote an article in a journal, *Offshore Finance Annual 1996*, admitting drug-dealing was rampant, police corruption rife and the population "morally indifferent".

They complained he was damaging the islands' reputation by admitting the crime rate had risen by 40 per cent in the past three years and that a police constable was under arrest, accused of robbing the Governor's residence.

"These are problems and difficulties which every country faces and struggles from one day to the next to deal with," the petition said. It also complained that "while we

would not pretend that the Turks and Caicos Islands does not have a drugs problem", an international publication was "not the place to deal with such issues".

Britain gave their arguments short shrift. Sir Nicholas said: "We are of the opinion that an open and honest approach is more likely to be beneficial."

Mr Taylor and Washington Misick, leader of the islands' Opposition and one of the Governor's fiercest critics, also said Mr Bourke had habitually arranged for relatives and friends to avoid customs clearance; had appointed himself a marriage officer temporarily so as to conduct the marriage of his brother-in-law; and had not consulted local politicians over the Chief Justice's reappointment.

"We consider this high-handed, autocratic and despotic approach to the exercise by the Governor of his functions demonstrates a marked disrespect and disregard for the sentiments of the people," they said.

Britain sent six police to the islands last week to strengthen the local force, depleted by suspensions.

Diplomats familiar with the Caribbean have denounced the campaign against the Governor, saying it is based on fear that tougher anti-drug measures will hit many community leaders.



Bourke: fully backed by the Foreign Office

Computer gets first byte of the cherry

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

AS JAPAN gears up for its annual cherry blossom orgy, the weathermen are gambling for the first time on a supercomputer to forecast when the blooms will look their best for millions of enthusiasts planning *hanami* (blossom viewing) events.

Every spring since 1955 the Meteorological Office has issued daily bulletins on the state of blooms across the country. From late March television stations carry maps showing the northward advance of the *sakura zensen* (cherry blossom front), which takes more than a month to reach the northern tip of Hokkaido.

The meteorologists have a patchy record for accuracy, however, and the Japanese who plan their *hanami* revelries turn on the weathermen if the blossoms are past their peak on the day.

This year the Met Office is feeding the vast volume of data from around Japan into a supercomputer instead of relying on individual forecasts by regional observatories.

"This year I think we'll do a better job," Shunji Takahashi, of the Applied Meteorology Division, said. "Of course one can never be 100 per cent correct," he added cautiously.

Russians torpedo plan to control global arms sales

BY MICHAEL DYNES

PLANS to prevent the export of high-technology weapons and equipment to rogue states were thrown into disarray yesterday after Russia refused to disclose details of its global arms sales.

Russian officials snubbed a new arms export control body for fear that such disclosures would jeopardise a vital source of the hard currency needed to prop up its ailing economy.

Under the proposed export control regime, pariah states such as Iraq, Iran, Libya and North Korea were to be targeted in an effort to prevent a repetition of the piecemeal build-up of armaments before the Gulf War in 1990.

Nato and Russia were among representatives from 30 countries meeting in Vienna yesterday, for the first

formal meeting of the arms control group, aimed at halting the proliferation of lethal high-technology weaponry in the post-Cold War era.

Russia's refusal to co-operate has raised questions about the viability of the new initiative. "This refusal is threatening the whole regime," one diplomatic source said.

Known as the Wassenaar Arrangement, after the Dutch town where the signatories agreed on the need for new arms export controls last December, the new controls were also to be the first line of defence against terrorist groups seeking to acquire weapons of mass destruction.

The new export controls were to replace Cocom (the Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls), created by Nato in 1949 to

prevent the export of sensitive technologies and military equipment to the Soviet Union and China. Cocom was wound up in 1994.

The Wassenaar Arrangement will have a full-time secretariat, probably based in Vienna, responsible for regulating the multi-billion pound international arms trade. Its central objective will be to prevent the sale of stealth technology, ballistic missile defence systems and conventional weapons such as hand-held missiles and advanced machine tools.

Despite high hopes for the new group, observers feared that it could fall apart within months if President Yeltsin loses the June election, and his successor decides to pull Moscow out of the fledgling organisation.

Bahrain 'faces more violence'

BY LEYLA LINTON

BAHRAIN is heading for an upsurge in violence if the ruling al-Khalifa family continues to abuse civil rights, Lord Avebury, the chairman of the parliamentary human rights group, said yesterday.

"We are heading for a disaster the scale of which is impossible to contemplate for the region," Lord Avebury

said at the launch of a report on the emirate. It details excessive force against a number of people who are being detained without trial. The majority Shia population are demanding the reinstatement of parliament set up in 1973 but shut down in 1975.

Lord Avebury criticised the British Government for not using its influence with the al-Khalifa family to resolve the

political turmoil. He cited London's refusal to intervene over the execution on March 26 of Issa Ahmad Hassan Qambar, who was convicted of killing a policeman. Human rights campaigners feared his confession had been extracted under torture. "If you compare this with the case of [Nigerian] Ken Saro-Wiwa, it is a case of double standards," Lord Avebury said.

Israeli generals hit panic button over recruits' army of mobile phones

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE Israeli army has declared war on a new enemy, the mobile phone, after the disclosure that more than 90 per cent of the latest batch of recruits for training at the main tank corps base arrived equipped with cellular phones.

Commanders at the base in the south of the country ruled that the phenomenon had become intolerable and was interfering with the operation of troops, especially dur-

ing combat duty. "The parents equip them with cellular phones and they turn into ridiculous soldiers," one commander told the biggest selling Tel Aviv daily, *Yediot Ahronot*.

The frenetic use of mobile phones in Israel, one of the countries with the highest per capita ownership in the world, has caused problems in synagogues where they have been banned by irate rabbis and among infantry units which were using them to order pizzas to be sent across the border from northern

Israel into occupied southern Lebanon.

The army general staff has issued an order banning them from being used or even carried during "military activity" as defined by the commander of the unit in question. "It is further stated that an officer from the rank of major, or a security officer, is permitted to instruct a soldier not to carry or use a cellular phone for reasons of field security, communications security and/or army discipline," *Yediot's* military correspondent reported.

According to Israeli officers, the ubiquitous portable phones have been used by soldiers both to inform anxious families when they are going on potentially dangerous operations and to play the notoriously volatile Tel Aviv stock market from remote locations. One government official said that there had even been a suspicion that use of a mobile phone may have been the cause of a recent military helicopter accident.

Yaron Ezrahi, a political theorist, said: "The cell phone has replaced

the gun as the symbol of macho and importance in Israeli society. In the past, social status was measured by proximity to military power. Today it is measured by proximity to economic power."

The expert, one of many who have pointed out the extraordinary spread of mobile phones to every corner of Israeli life, said that in the past soldiers were famous for going to war with a gun and the Torah, meaning that they fought for the nation. Now they go with a gun and a phone "meaning I fight for my

quality of life". Outlining the new attempted clampdown, which is certain to increase the growing reluctance of young Israelis to undergo compulsory military service, a tank corps commander said: "Every round of recruits arrives with their cellular phones, but this [latest] group reached a new record. Every new army recruit was equipped with a telephone. It is simply unbelievable. "Until now, the recruits used the public telephones on the base and there was never a problem."

Free person with every policy.

Yeltsin signs Belorussia pact to thwart Communists' imperial ambitions



Presidents Yeltsin, left, and Lukashenko toast their treaty yesterday

BY THOMAS DE WAAL

PRESIDENTS Yeltsin and Lukashenko of Russia and Belorussia signed a treaty creating a Commonwealth of Sovereign States between their two countries yesterday, in a move aimed at outflanking the Russian Communist Party's plans to reinvent the Soviet Union.

In a day of Slavic brotherhood, April 2 was declared to be the Day of Unity of the Peoples, a new national holiday in the two countries, and the treaty was blessed by Patriarch Aleksii II, who walked between the two Presidents as they descended the Beautiful Porch in the Kremlin.

"Before our eyes history is returning to its sources," the Patriarch said, blessing the union of "two brother nations christened together".

However, such feelings were not shared in Minsk yesterday by about 5,000 people who marched through the Belorussian capital towards Mr Lukashenko's offices to protest about the pact. The protesters, who later numbered 12,000, were prevented by about 1,000 police from approaching parliament and gathered at the opera house.

The new "commonwealth" has deliberate overtones of the Soviet Union, which Mr Yeltsin hopes will boost his electoral chances.

The Russian initials of the new union, SSR, recall the USSR and Mr Lukashenko, its main initiator, has reinstated the Soviet-era flag of his republic. The festivities came only four days after another Kremlin ceremony in which the leaders of Kazakhstan and Kirghizia signed an economic pact with Russia and Belorussia, creating an inner core within the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Mr Yeltsin accelerated work on the two agreements in recent weeks to outmanoeuvre Gennadi Zyuganov, his Communist Party challenger for the presidency. Their different approaches to

integration of the former Soviet republics have been a key electoral theme since Mr Zyuganov and the Communist-dominated Duma voted last month to declare null and void the Belovezhsk accord that led to the breakup of the Soviet Union. Mr Yeltsin denounced the vote as divisive and dangerous.

Under the treaty with Russia, Belorussia will maintain its sovereignty, flag and place in international institutions. In key areas, however, it will delegate its sovereignty to its powerful eastern neighbour.

The two countries will co-operate on foreign and defence policy and have agreed to move

towards a single currency by the end of next year. They will create a common market with a single tax system. Some Russian economists fear that as a result Russia will be called upon effectively to subsidise Belorussia's inefficient heavy industry, while other commentators say that the treaty has been rushed through.

The deal is a triumph for Mr Lukashenko, who was the only deputy in the Belorussian parliament to oppose the Belovezhsk agreement in 1991 and has campaigned for integration with Russia. Belorussia is the most "Russified" of the former Soviet republics and the national language is not widely spoken.

Rebel Armenian enclave becomes independent state

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN STEPANAKERT, NAGORNO-KARABAKH

UNNOTICED by the outside world, a small Armenian state has formed in the southern Caucasus for the first time since the seventh century.

For Robert Kocharyan, the President of the self-declared Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, the logic is compelling. His fighters have carved out a defensible territory and they will not let it go.

"We have been independent of Azerbaijan for eight years," said Mr Kocharyan, a young, fast-talking former engineer. "We see no stimulus that could make us join that republic. Everything divides us — culture, language, and then the war, a heavy weight from the past."

Ten days ago the new statelet threw a party that reflected its confidence. Soldiers in beige uniforms and children in woolly hats converged on Stepanakert's stadium for a fundraising concert that was broadcast in Yerevan, the Armenian capital, and Los Angeles. Fifteen thousand people huddled into the stands to hear speeches, a singer croon *I Love Karabakh*, and watch commandos performing karate exercises. A 60-year-old marathon runner carrying an orange-blue and

red Armenian flag staggered round the stadium to applause.

Shusha, the old town in the hills which was predominantly Azerbaijani, is ghostly. It is still in ruins from the 1992 battle when the Armenians took the town, the first in a series of victories that turned the war in their favour. The interior of the mosque is a black shell and graves have been overturned. But the church of Gazanchetsots, where the Azerbaijanis stored Grad missiles during the war, is being restored and 2,000 Armenians, mostly refugees from Azerbaijan's capital, Baku, have settled there.

Armen Asatryan, an Armenian from Baku, hobbling up the ruins of the main street, said he had lost his leg in the fight for the Azerbaijani city of Agdam in 1993. He lives in a flat full of books that once belonged to an academic. It was a fair exchange for the loss of his flat in Baku, he said.

There was no question of giving back conquered territory, he said, especially by Nagorno-Karabakh, a fighting nation. "These lads, who have seen two or three years of war, you can't frighten them with anything."

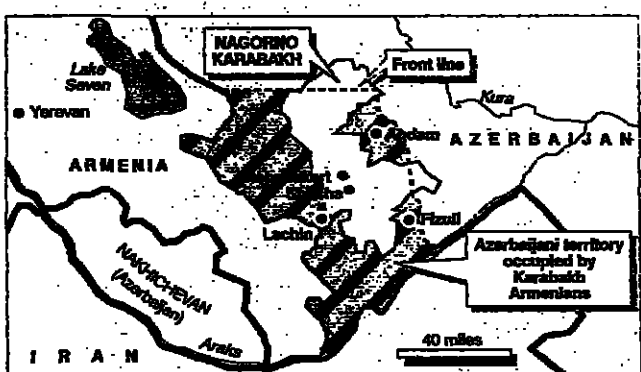
The strength of pride in Nagorno-Karabakh, plus a powerful army and defensible frontiers, look likely to see off the latest peace initiatives by Washington and Moscow. After Strobe Talbott, the top American negotiator with the former Soviet Union, shuttled between Moscow, Baku and Yerevan last month there were rumours of a "framework document" being hammered out in time for the Moscow summit of the nuclear powers later this month.

An uneasy Mr Kocharyan said he would resist pressure to sign any documents prematurely. "For April they are talking about general principles of a settlement," he said. "I think that could be of some use. But if they try to thrust a document at us that speaks of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and only a high degree of self-rule for Karabakh, then of course we will not sign it."

The President said he wanted security guarantees that gave Armenia the right to intervene militarily. "In this respect it is very simple for us. The possible ramifications are black and white. Karabakh risks complete annihilation if it forgets for a day that a threat exists," he said.

Mr Kocharyan, a diligent student of the Dayton agreement, said he could not be put under the same pressure as the Bosnian Serbs. The route out of Karabakh suggests the truth of this. Bulldozers are building a road through the so-called Lachin corridor that is erasing the distinction between the territories. Traffic flows freely and more than 10,000 Armenians are doing military service in Karabakh.

Leading article, page 17



Walesa clocks on for work at shipyard

BY ROGER BOYES

A BLACK limousine yesterday whisked Lech Walesa, the former Polish President, and his beefy bodyguard through the gates of the Gdansk shipyard where he clocked in for work as a £120-a-month electrician.

Mr Walesa's return to his political roots — he led the 1980s strikes at the yard which brought down the Communist Government — was partly a protest at a ruling that bars former Presidents from claiming a state pension.

"What is a former President supposed to do, become a barman or something?" the 52-year-old Nobel laureate said.

The main point of returning to the yard was for Mr Walesa to gain fresh authority in his attempts to rally Poland's workers behind a new anti-Communist opposition. This has been his goal since being defeated in elections last November by Aleksandr Kwasniewski, a former Communist. The yards, which are on the verge of bankruptcy, have become a kind of Roman amphitheatre, an arena for Poland's political conflicts.

When Mr Walesa clambered over the shipyard gates in August 1980, he helped to spawn Eastern Europe's first independent trade union movement. An apparently fruitless shipyard strike in May 1988 led to talks with the Communist Government and paved the way for an orderly handover of power. Mr Walesa has frequently come back to the yard, where he was on the payroll until he became President in 1990, to assert himself as the true voice of the Polish working class.



Lech Walesa, the former Polish President, is given a set of screwdrivers by a well-wisher

Money, then, is a secondary factor. Mr Walesa has won hundreds of thousands of pounds from various human rights prizes over the past 15 years and while some cash was earmarked for charity, there has been enough to buy a large home in a leafy Gdansk suburb.

He also received a \$1 million (£654,000) advance from Warner Brothers for the rights to a film of his life. Robert De Niro was lined up for the central role and he visited the Baltic port

city to meet the Solidarity leader; the film was never made but the taxman wants his slice of Mr Walesa's fee.

About half the money seems to have been spent, most of it on buying homes and cars for his grown-up sons. Mr Walesa's limousine and bodyguards (who earn about twice his electrician's salary) are paid for by the state. The Polish parliament, then dominated by Solidarity deputies, ruled against a presidential pension so that Gen-

eral Wojciech Jaruzelski, Mr Walesa's predecessor as head of state, would not benefit.

Mr Walesa is also expected to make money on the American lecture circuit despite his erratic rhetorical skills. He is likely therefore to be an absentee electrician, but may prove to be a valuable asset for the yard as it seeks investors. Last year it recorded a loss of more than £20 million.

Letters, page 17

Serbs 'tried to hide mass graves'

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN TUZLA

INVESTIGATORS from the United Nations War Crimes Tribunal began surveying alleged mass grave sites near Srebrenica yesterday to gather evidence to prosecute Bosnian Serb suspects.

The Bosnian Serbs are accused of massacring thousands of Muslims when they overran the "safe area" last July. Fresh evidence suggests, however, that they have tampered with grave sites in an attempt to cover up the atrocities.

The Nato-led peace implementation force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, (Ifor), which has refused to guard suspected sites, insists there is no evidence to suggest any of the 11 areas identified by American air surveillance around Srebrenica has been altered. Evidence of tampering is ap-

parent, however, at one site — Sahaniid, west of Zvornik.

Three survivors who hid under dead bodies before escaping have said that graves lie in a field just beyond a school. Between 600 and 1,000 Muslim men were held there before being taken to nearby fields for execution last summer.

Half the field has green foliage, half is covered with freshly churned earth. The

mounds of mud are unmistakably the result of fresh digging and fresh tyre tracks lead from the site.

According to David Rohde, a *Christian Science Monitor* reporter who discovered the site in October and returned yesterday, Serbs have tried to hide debris from the massacre by covering it with rubbish. When he found Sahaniid, Mr Rohde was kept prisoner by Serbs for two weeks.

Croat raiders accused

The Hague: A girl cheated death by hiding under her sister's corpse and a woman was made to watch the killing of her husband when Bosnian Croat forces raided the Muslim village of Stupni Do in 1993, the United Nations

War Crimes Tribunal heard yesterday. The survivors were testifying against Ivica Rajic, a militia leader whose own allegedly killed about 16 civilians in the farming village of no military significance. Mr Rajic is at large. (Reuters)

Ecologist in jail for fire

Madrid: A Spanish ecologist has been jailed for ten years and fined £130,000 for starting a forest fire (Edward Owen writes). Juan José Cosin, 39, was charged with starting the fire in May 1994, which devastated 13,000 acres of forest near Valencia. Hundreds of people had to be evacuated and the fire carried on burning for weeks.

Cosin told the court in Valencia that he had been protesting against local plans to install a warehouse for radioactive lighting conductors (often connected to radio masts and microwave dishes). A tribunal of magistrates said that there was "an evident contradiction" in his ecological attitude and the charges he had been facing. The sentence is the longest imposed for deliberately starting a forest fire.

Catholic fears over priests' sex lives

BY RICHARD OWEN

A THIRD of Italian Catholic priests are secretly married or have secret sexual relationships, a report claims.

According to Fr Guido D'Altri, head of Vocatio, an organisation of married priests, a quarter of the 40,000 priests "in active service" in Italy leave the Church after less than five years, many of them to marry. Of those who remain, about 30 per cent have "a secret long-standing sexual relationship".

Fr D'Altri admits there is no public register of "priests with girlfriends", but there is a "network of confidences", he says, and letters, telephone calls and meetings "leave a trace". "Small transgressions tend to become permanent

ones," he said. "The priesthood is facing a grave crisis." In the early Church, priests and bishops were often married. In the 6th century marriage was forbidden and celibacy has been the ideal ever since.

Mass ban: A bishop known as "the Zambian witch doctor" has been banned from celebrating Mass by Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini, the Archbishop of Milan, because his services include exorcism of "those possessed by devils". Five thousand admirers of Emmanuel Milingo, the former Archbishop of Lusaka, widely praised for his healing of the sick in a Milan parish, have signed a petition calling for his reinstatement.



Di Pietro: his decision will please Berlusconi

Di Pietro refuses to take up election challenge

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ANTONIO DI PIETRO, the Italian former magistrate and folk hero who launched the "Clean Hands" (*Mani Pulite*) anti-corruption drive, yesterday quashed speculation that he would galvanise the election campaign by entering the race after his acquittal on the third and final charge of "abuse of office".

There is a growing view, however, that if the election later this month produces deadlock President Scalfaro could turn to the hugely popular Signor Di Pietro as a Prime Minister "above party interest".

With just under three weeks before the vote, Centre-Left and Centre-Right are balanced evenly. Final opinion polls published this week before the legal poll blackout showed the Centre-Right, led by Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia, marginally ahead.

Signor Di Pietro's decision not to join either main grouping comes in his weekly column today in the magazine *Oggi*. "Let me say once and for all that I shall not participate in the campaign in any way whatever," he writes. "This is not because I feel superior but out of respect for our citizens and institutions."

The move will be welcome news for the beleaguered Signor Berlusconi. "Friends" of Signor Di Pietro had indicated that he would either join the Centre-Left or, even more dangerous for Signor Berlusconi, align himself with Gianfranco Fini, the post-Fascist leader of the Alleanza Nazionale, the other main (and increasingly dominant) component of the Centre-Right bloc.

There were reports that Signor Di Pietro, whose heart is said to "beat on the right", would only join Signor Fini if Signor Berlusconi bowed out because of the mounting corruption charges against him. Milan: A court delayed for two weeks a decision to prosecute Signor Berlusconi, the former Prime Minister, for illegally funding the Socialist Party, judicial sources reported. (AFP)

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Alan Coren



Why I dread the men who always make a fortune out of a crisis

The hounds of spring are on winter's traces. Their nostrils flare, their tongues drool, their ears perk, their jaws snap, their eyes flash, and every last fibre of their eager bodies strains against the taut confines of their black jackets and pinstriped trousers.

Yes, dead right, got it in one, they are lawyers. They are members of the Garden Bar, and as, this vernal morning, I look down from my attic window over the burgeoning Crickwood sward, my mind's eye sees their phantoms loping my borders, prodding this, sniffing that, shaking these, kicking those, and generally manifesting all the barking enthusiasm of their breed. For it is a fine spring day, which is to say a day when the prospect of a fine springs up at every turn, bringing fine prospects of their own to these keen hounds of spring.

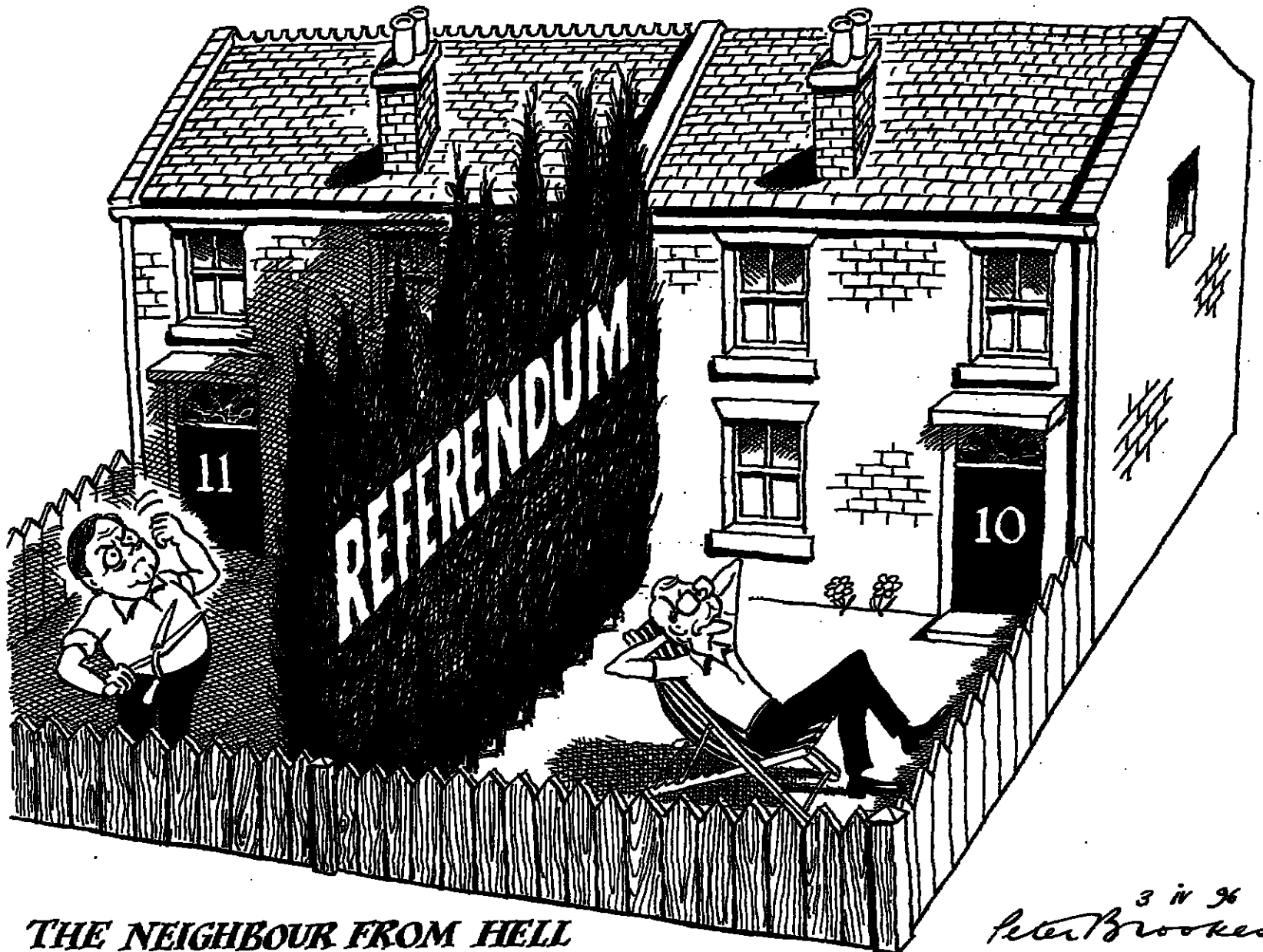
Whence, with the lack on the wing and the snail on the thorn, these sombre visions? Selly Oak, Birmingham, is whence? For it was there, on Monday, that the peace of a suburban garden was cleft by the rasp of a chainsaw cutting the latest notch in the dispute between neighbours Charles Stanton and Michael Jones which has been broiling along for 17 years, at a legal cost, so far, of £100,000: a sum spent in attempting to determine whether Stanton's hedge, as Jones asserts, is too high. I take no sides in this, not because these are two seriously litigious wackos whose libel writs would be hitting my doormat before this column was wrapping tomorrow's haddock, but because, for me, there is only one thing too high about all this, and that is the heretofore sum, which, when I look out on the landscape hereinbelow, makes my blood run cold.

Look with me, at my garden. See, it is bounded on three sides, leaning fences left and right, a wobbly wall at the back. It is a low wall, to allow balls booted over by the kids beyond to be pounced on by the dog on the left hurtling through the gap in the fence. It does not hurdle through for the ball, mind, the ball is a bonus, it hurtles through to get at the cat on the right which has crawled through the space left by a rotten gravel-board. The cat has done this to get at the fish in my pond, now that the water-level has risen high enough as the result of winter seepage from the garden beyond the wall, which is also the reason the wall is wobbly, lacking the foundations I was assured were unnecessary when I had it built, the ground being hard in 1978, ie. before the neighbour beyond raised his soil level so that water could seep through.

Question: If the wobbly wall fell away from my garden onto the football kids of the neighbour who raised the soil to wobble it, how long would it take a decent lawyer to buy himself a Ferrari? Longer than it would take a decent lawyer representing the neighbour on my left, if the wall fell into my garden, flattening his dog as it hurtled in after the cat which had crawled in from the right? Bear in mind here that a really decent lawyer could have a field day with the co-defendant responsible not only for wobbling the wall but for allowing his kid to kick over it a ball that might be judged the dog's prime object, since it did not actually go for the cat, this having been established in another court, where the flattened cat had been produced in evidence during an action against the owner not only of a gravel-board neglected to a level deemed unfairly irresistible to cats, due to the negligence of the man beyond who should have taken potential seepage into account when backfilling soil and, co-laterally, undermining an unfounded wall.

And if the cat did not die at all, but shinned up a tree I had allowed to overlimb the garden beyond, and fell on the infant footballer, causing years of expensive counselling? And if the dog did not die but was merely knocked by the falling wall into the fishpond, and bit my typing finger as I pulled it out, occasioning major loss of earnings? Or if...

But, you cry, are you not all reasonable men, you four, able to settle such matters over a pint and a pickled walnut? Yes, we are, now, but Jones and Stanton were reasonable men, once. Until there arose a little cloud out of the garden, no bigger than a lawyer's hand.



THE NEIGHBOUR FROM HELL

When liberalism sleeps

Labour should not be lulled into agreeing draconian counter-terrorism measures

The so-called Prevention of Terrorism (Additional Powers) Bill being rushed through Parliament today is a nasty piece of legislation. Whether it is needed to counter a "public emergency" is moot. The Home Secretary says the police have asked for new powers because they suddenly want to institute random searches of people and property in central London. "My responsibility," says Michael Howard, "is to ensure that, if these powers have the potential to save one life during the Easter recess, the police are not denied them."

We all have candidates for what urgent measures might save a life this Easter. What should concern Parliament is its duty of scrutiny. The Prevention of Terrorism Act was introduced in 1974 by Roy Jenkins as a short-term measure to counter a nationwide rash of bombings and shootings. It restricted the free movement of citizens within the United Kingdom and permitted solitary detention without access to a lawyer for two days (extendable) and for a week without charge or trial. Abuse of the Act led to the disastrous Guildford and Birmingham bomb trials. Yet most people believed that, since Britain was not a tinpot dictatorship and Mr Jenkins was an eminent liberal, the law must be needed and would doubtless be short-lived. It was only for a year, renewable.

That belief was wrong. International law allows such legislation only where it is "strictly proportionate to the exigencies of the situation", and not on the basis that a past emergency might later re-emerge. Britain disagrees. It has each year derogated from Article 5(3) of the European Convention on Human Rights, which it signed, on the grounds that the country is in the grip of a "public emergency". The Home Office has to squirm over its powers: "temporary" becomes "temporary supplemental", then "supplemental temporary continuation". Now they are just "additional". This is the phraseology not of the Mother of Parliaments but of a Paraguayan police chief.

For the past 13 years the Labour Party has commendably voted against each renewal of the Act. The party shared the view of many in the intelligence community that it had achieved nothing that the criminal law could not achieve. Yet it had soured relations between the police and Catholics in Northern Ireland and the Irish communities in Britain. Harassment under emergency powers is a

principal reason for the non-recruitment of Catholics to the RUC. Exclusion orders made a martyr of Gerry Adams and ridiculed British justice overseas. Of the 7,000 arrested without trial, a majority of those later convicted were charged with non-terrorist offences. In other words, the Act was being used to aid normal criminal work. As for "intelligence-gathering" as its justification, no other free country allows policemen to hold citizens without charge to gather evidence against third parties. The scope for abuse is too great. During the IRA ceasefire in March of last year, Parliament infringed both the European Convention and good sense by renewing the Act. This did not forestall the ending of the ceasefire. I am told that every shred of evidence about the Canary Wharf and Aldwych bombs has been gathered under criminal law. If lives have been saved, it was by expert policing, not fancy legislation.

Nonetheless, the Commons last month again voted to renew the Act. This time Labour voted with the Government, on the tenuous grounds that the Lloyd committee had been set up to look into its workings, should the ceasefire be resumed. The ceasefire has not been resumed, so it is hard to see what has changed to justify Labour's U-turn — except that the Act is now embroiled in the Dutch auction of right-wingery between John Major and Tony Blair.

Not content with this U-turn, the Shadow Cabinet now seems spellbound by Mr Howard. If it was content with the Prevention of Terrorism Act last month, why has it now joined the Home Office in wanting it amended, urgently and in a yet more draconian direction? The answer is intelligence, shared with Labour, that the IRA might try a West End bombing campaign to celebrate the anniversary of the 1916 uprising. The IRA has allegedly just learnt how to sew bombs inside garments (a trick also known to Joseph Conrad). The London Special Branch, still smarting from the

arrival of M15 on its patch, wants a political feather in its cap. It wants more powers for random searches of people and property even than it has under the Act. Hence the bid for a new Bill.

Why these powers were not thought necessary when the Act was renewed last month is a mystery. Why the anniversary of 1916 was not thought significant last month is a mystery. How random stop-and-search, used to no effect in Belfast, is supposed to avert a West End incendiary campaign is a mystery. Under the new powers, the police can stop and search anyone within a "designated area" without suspicion of their being terrorists. Irish neighbourhoods can be cordoned off by a superintendent and house-to-house searches can be made without a magistrate's warrant. Cars can be banned and towed away. Cargo can be searched at ports.

None of this need be out of suspicion of a bomb, merely if "expedient for purposes of investigation".

These powers are wholly exceptional. The public is assured that they will be exercised with "circumspection and sensitivity" — assured by those who are exercising them. We have heard that before. But at least the public might have been reassured had there been due cross-examination and debate in Parliament, as there would have been had these powers been proposed last month under Prevention of Terrorism renewal. Instead, Labour has been conned by the old trick of being allowed access to confidential intelligence. Mr Straw unilaterally surrendered Parliament's normal process of scrutiny. He was bounced by Mr Howard as it appears Mr Howard wants a bomb on his conscience this Easter. The Metropolitan Police has pulled off a coup. Never has the capacity of the IRA to pollute British politics been more spectacularly displayed.

These days liberalism has all the best

Simon Jenkins

One vote is not enough

John Redwood calls for another Euro-referendum

The Cabinet is apparently poised to grant a referendum on a single currency. After weeks of delicate manoeuvring around the Cabinet table, the veiled threats and subtle pressures have ended in an agreement of a kind. I am delighted if a promise is to be made that the people will be consulted before Parliament hands over the powers it has from them on trust. But desirable though a referendum on a single currency is, it is not enough. It would be preferable to see a clear lead on the issue, a Government determined to safeguard sovereignty and prepared to do so, moreover, by insisting that a referendum should be held not just in the event of any Parliament wishing to abolish the pound, but also if any proposals emerge from the inter-governmental conference which would diminish our capacity to govern ourselves.

The Conservative Party is yearning for some leadership on the great European questions. The nation would like to know more about the euro. It would like the Government to make up its mind. The business community will need to know soon whether we shall go in or not. If we do, it will need to change cash handling machines, tills and computer programmes.

It would be best if the Government were to make up its mind on the principle of the single currency. The decision to give up most of our powers of economic self-government is not one which requires minute scrutiny; it is one we should be able to answer on general grounds. If we want a Europe of nations, with a common market between us, there is no place for a single currency. If we want to press on towards a single state in a country called Europe, then the single currency is essential. This choice cannot be fudged, finessed, or brought down to issues of immediate political or economic advantage. It is not something to be decided later, on the spur of the moment, in response to the pressures of the day. It is not something that a handful of MPs on either side of the argument should be able to win by a timely shove during a moment of government weakness. It is a defining issue. What sort of a people are we? Where do we belong? Do we value our independent institutions or don't we?

As both the Government and the Opposition find it difficult to debate and settle the issue in principle, many have called for a referendum. We have had referendums before on constitutional issues. In 1975 we were asked whether we wanted to stay in the Common Market. The Scottish and Welsh were asked in 1979 whether they wanted devolved assemblies. These were the acts of a weak minority Government that was itself divided, but they were welcome nonetheless. I think the Cabinet should confirm today that there will be no further transfer of powers to the European institutions without express referral to and consent from the British people.

Many people feel cheated. They agreed with the Government in 1972 that we should join the old Common Market. They voted "yes" in 1975, reassured by the Yes campaign that it did not mean loss of sovereignty. They were told that the veto on important matters was intact. Since then they have seen the drift from Common Market to European Community to European Union, without their being consulted. They did not know that Britain would be powerless to protect its beef industry from EU bans, unable to stop the depredations of Spanish fishermen, and incapable of stopping the onward rolling power of the European Court.

They would like the Government to develop its notion of a Europe of nations and take back some of the powers we have lost. They want Britain to argue passionately for a different kind of Europe that allows communities, towns, cities and nations more space to breathe. They would like their views to matter.

Recent weeks have seen damaging Cabinet splits. Some briefings have said the Cabinet is ready to agree a referendum on the single currency, and counter-briefings have said that the Chancellor would resign if that were agreed. But, given the mood of the nation, it has always been clear that the Cabinet could only go one way: there had to be a referendum before any move to a single currency.

If the Government cannot rule the euro out altogether, a referendum on a single currency would give at least some reassurance. But we should promise a referendum also if any proposals come from the IGC that would shift more power from these islands. These would be two locks on the door, making it less likely that a government would recommend such action, given the uncertainties of referendum campaigns. They would provide confirmation that European integration can proceed only with consent. If it proceeds in any other way, people will feel more and more cheated.

Meanwhile at the gates is Sir James Goldsmith. A referendum on the single currency may blunt his appeal, but it will not appease him. The Government is simply not considering his idea of a referendum now, before the election, on the state Europe has now reached. It says something for the lack of confidence of the integrationists that they shy away from allowing the people to issue a progress report. The thought that the British might say "no" to Maastricht is too terrible for the Government to contemplate. It could be that the British are no longer content with the Government of Europe.

Victoriana

BEHIND the statuary and armoires at the Victoria and Albert Museum, the talk is of a night of long knives. Alan Borg, the director, is looking at several plans of action to deal with mounting financial problems. In extremis, galleries may have to be closed during the busy summer season, and jobs may be cut. As many as 50 of the 800 employees may yet go.

Finances have been a constant worry at the V&A for years. Elizabeth Esteve-Coll, director until last year, may have inspired angry skewering of cocktail sticks in the salons of South Kensington with her supposedly excessive commercialism, but even her stringency was not enough.

With government grants standing still, the museum is having to bring out the scalpel again. Borg, a keen fencer and renowned tough cookie, should be the man to do it. A spokesman for the museum says that although everything is being done to prevent the closure of galleries, it remains a possibility. As for staffing, it is said that vacancies are unlikely to be filled for the moment, and every line of the budget is being scoured for savings. "The question about

everything here at the moment," says the spokesman, "is simply 'Can we afford it?'"

There is corridor-creeeping at Bush House: the BBC is over-run with mice. A memo now circulating states that, "after a long period of minimal activity, a number of mouse sightings have been reported". A professional pest control company has been



Alan Borg will soon be busy shovelling

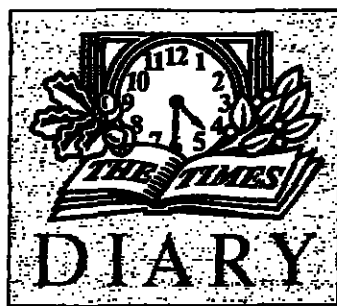
secured, but an alternative suggestion is doing the rounds: set loose the man who confesses to a desire to strangle puffins and see off all kittens — Jeremy Paxman.

Well observed

WILL HUTTON's arrival as Editor of *The Observer*, where eight journalists have promptly been sacked, has caused a run in local bookshops on his turgid economic tome *The State We're In*. Remaining members of staff are desperately scouring its pages for some message of encouragement.

Page 98 is the best-thumbed. Here, "Stakeholder" Hutton argues that "the theoretical categories that might apply to analysing trade in chocolate bars, fish or computers cannot be extended to labour because we have to confront the issues of fairness, morale and human motivation".

Meanwhile, a *Guardian* news reporter, John Mullin, was so excited on Friday about the possibility of nabbing one of the newly-vacated *Observer* jobs that he tracked down Alan Rusbridger, Editor-in-Chief of both papers, to a conference in Barcelona. He immediately flew to Spain, interrupted Rusbridger mid-siesta, and asked to be made news editor of the Sunday title — but was sent packing.



Sir Richard Scott is to be rewarded for his arduous efforts in producing the Scott Report. He is to jostle on a podium with the comedian Victoria Wood and David Jenkins, retired Bishop of Durham, at Birmingham University in July when he picks up an honorary degree.

Indiscreet

GOOD NEWS for Italy's discotheques: Gianni "Greasylocks" de Michelis, possibly the greatest disco-dancing Foreign Minister in European history, is still on the loose. Despite being sentenced to four years' imprisonment for financial indiscretions while in office, he is currently working as a consultant while he appeals against the sentence. Keep watching for those flying elbows.

The Government may have stumbled on a solution to the Northern Ireland problem as a consequence of the beef hysteria. In their attempts to escape the EU ban on British beef, Ulster Unionist farmers are forcefully insisting that their cows are Irish.

Dizzy heights

A TROUPE of right-wing Tories will be trotting off to Hampstead to the New End Theatre over the coming days. David Hart, the mustachioed and mysterious right-winger who advises ministers, has written a play.

His offering, *Victoriana*, features Prime Ministers Gladstone and Disraeli, and hinges on whether Queen Victoria ever knew of Gladstone's ill-advised encounters with prostitutes. The notion has so excited Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, a prize-winning biographer of Gladstone, that he plans to see the piece forthwith. He feels sure that Disraeli sneaked on Gladstone to the Queen. "Disraeli loved gossiping with her, and might well have mentioned it."

Burger off

JOHN GUMMER was in ebullient form at the Academia Italiana exhibition of the "Vanished Gar-



Cordelia: chew it over

dens of Rome" on Monday night in London — despite a spat that morning with James Naughtie on Radio 4's *Today* programme, when he refused to discuss feeding his young daughter Cordelia hamburgers. Munching merrily on canapés of beef, he said he had enjoyed the exhibition almost as much as the titbits. I didn't dare ask him whether Leonarda, his other small daughter, who was with him at the knees-up, was enjoying the canapés too.

P.H.S

MISSION POSSIBLE

The peace effort in Bosnia must be given every chance

April. T.S. Eliot's cruellest month, has begun particularly bleakly in Bosnia. For the Nato-led force implementing the Dayton accord, is now a quarter of the way through its mission: The ceasefire is holding, the armies have been parted and land due to be swapped between the Bosnian Serb republic and the Muslim-Croat federation has been handed over. But that is about all.

Planting begins this month. But hardly any of the farmers displaced by the war have been able or willing to return home. There are probably more Bosnian refugees than when the fighting ended, since people have fled areas about to be exchanged amid grim scenes of arson and looting — carried out under the silent guns. Illegal checkpoints have sprouted, contravening the most fundamental of all Dayton's provisions — total freedom of movement between cantons and across the internal frontiers of this loosely-structured state. The Muslim-Croat federation is worse than fragile. Mostar, its second city, is run by gangsters. Some communities are making heroic efforts to rebuild their lives and World Bank money is financing roads and tractors, credits to jump-start small businesses and emergency repairs to houses, schools, roads and utilities. But on no front is there enough progress to give anybody much confidence that peace will long outlast the Dayton accord.

Quarrelling is again breaking out across the Atlantic. American diplomats say that the commanders are doing everything expected of them and blame Carl Bildt, the Swedish politician responsible for implementing the civilian side of the Dayton accord, for delays and incompetence. They insist that it is no part of the soldiers' job to secure civil order or to assist the international war crimes tribunal and ask indignantly why the international police force has yet to be brought up to strength.

Europeans complain that America is not paying its due share of the civilian effort; and they hint that were it not for the Americans' determination to avoid casualties, Ifor would be interpreting more robustly its Dayton mandate to ensure freedom of

movement and respond to "deliberate violence to life and person". There is buck-passing at ground level too. Yesterday, an American commander near Srebrenica listed what his troops would not do: "They will not clear mines. They will not exhumate remains. They will not investigate suspected atrocity sites. We will not guard sites, evidence or suspected war criminals. We will not be involved in witness protection."

The trend is for each organisation to say that the safety and security of Bosnian civilians is somebody else's job. This has to stop. It is damaging and beside the point. The Dayton accord is riddled with flaws, but its virtue is that it dovetails a strong military operation with detailed plans for political reconciliation, institution-building and post-war reconstruction. They stand or fall together. The West is spending £4 billion on Ifor, expects to invest around £1 billion this year on reconstruction and has committed incalculable quantities of prestige.

The Americans, after dithering for weeks while the Muslim-Croat federation fell apart, are now back in Sarajevo knocking heads together. Talk of cancelling next week's pledging conference on reconstruction aid has stopped. This encouraging news needs to be supplemented by clear instructions to Ifor commanders to deal decisively with illegal checkpoints, which were outlawed by Dayton. Often run by armed bandits for profit, they terrorise civilians and make normal economic life impossible. No custom or habit must be allowed to rebuild that could lead to the resumption of hostilities and this is a good way of making the point. Any Ifor unit that allows a checkpoint to survive for more than 24 hours should be called to account.

Time is slipping away fast. If Ifor is to leave in December, as planned, the first units will withdraw in a matter of months. Western governments have already begun to bicker about what happens after December. If would be far better to avoid what could be an extremely damaging public argument later, by doing now whatever can help this difficult mission to succeed.

HARD POUNDING

Clarke, Major, Maastricht and a referendum

At last John Major has taken the decision to hold a referendum on a single currency. This was always going to be the right decision: the question was whether he was prepared to take it in the face of opposition from his Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke. Now, it appears, Mr Clarke has been squared and Cabinet will vote today to back the consultation of the public should a Conservative Government ever recommend that Britain sign up to economic and monetary union.

For all his hesitation, the Prime Minister ultimately had no choice — for reasons both principled and tactical. The principle is that such a fundamental constitutional change requires the prior consent of the people. The tactics are to hold together a party which is deeply divided on the issue; and to stem the flow of any voters to Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party. But the promise of a referendum is in no sense a sop to the Euro-sceptics. Politicians who are in favour of a single currency, such as Paddy Ashdown, also back a referendum. Most people realise that when the time comes, and other countries consult their electorates, it will seem inconceivable that Britain could escape doing so.

A majority of the Cabinet has always backed the Prime Minister's view. Integrationists and sceptics alike accept the inevitability of a referendum. They disagree only on whether Cabinet ministers who oppose a single currency should be allowed to say so during the course of the referendum campaign.

Kenneth Clarke, who believes that consulting the people is a dangerous notion in itself, was so vehemently opposed to the idea that he managed to delay for weeks the

action that the Prime Minister wanted to take. But, like many political tiffs, the real argument between the Prime Minister and his Chancellor is not the one that has been aired. Mr Clarke is angry about what he perceives to be a shift in government policy towards the Euro-sceptics. Had he resigned, the referendum would merely have been a pretext.

Now that the Conservatives are set to promise a referendum, what will Tony Blair do? Given that a Labour government would probably be more likely than the Tories to recommend joining a single currency, he must surely match Mr Major's pledge if he is not to lose the support of those voters who want a say on the matter.

It really will not do to hide behind the notion of a general election being a sufficient mandate. When the electorate votes this year or next, it will be on matters economic and social. At the top of the political agenda will be tax and spending, education and health, unemployment and the social chapter. Indeed, given that neither party is likely to express a categorical view on the single currency, for or against, it would be impossible for voters to decide which party to back on that issue alone.

If a referendum seems inevitable to Conservative ministers, it must do so for the same reasons to their Labour shadows. A government that denied one would make the gulf between politics and the people almost unbridgeable. There was fury that accession to the Maastricht treaty was hammered through without public consultation. The abolition of the pound is a more sensitive matter still. There will be problems with wording and problems with timing. But a referendum there will have to be.

BACK TO THE FUTURE

The 7th century meets the 20th in Nagorno-Karabakh

Adjust your clocks, tickle up your time-machines, stock up on your history books: a statelet from the distant past has sprung to vibrant life again. Nagorno-Karabakh (for such is its name) is a tiny place that snuggles in the wild and heaving bosom of the Caucasus. This Armenian enclave, a romantic cartographical echo from the 7th century, has declared independence from Azerbaijan — itself one of the atlas-pulpers of the post-Soviet era. No serious country as yet recognises its separate existence, but that does not stop us testing our minds at an idea. What was the world like when there was last an Armenian state in the southern Caucasus? Pretty damn small, actually, and pretty oddly shaped. The Times, had it then been around, would have had some stories to startle modern eyes.

MOHAMMED FLEES MECCA: "Mohammed, a preacher who advocates the end of Arab polytheism and the worship of one God, has fled from the town of Mecca and headed north." POPE DIES OF HUNGER: "Pope Martin, charged with high treason by Emperor Constantine II, has died of hunger and hypothermia in Crimea, where he was deported after angering the Emperor by his speech at the Lateran Council." The inside pages get more complex.

NARA BECOMES FIRST CAPITAL OF JAPAN: "Breaking with Shinto tradition, the Japanese court has moved to Nara, a pleasant rural site known best for the celebrated five-tiered pagoda of Horyuji." MORE POIGNANTLY, TIBET EMERGES AS INDEPENDENT STATE: "Strong-boson Sgampo, the duke of a Western Himalayan province, yesterday married a Chinese princess and established the new kingdom of Tibet."

But most intriguing of all, to our modern readers, would have been our Home News pages. (We would probably have been The Times of Merca). Here is one in the eye for Euro-philosophes. PENNY INTRODUCED AS LEGAL TENDER: "King Offa, taking advantage of Mercia's unprecedented trading boom with Europe, has decreed that the penny — a new silver coin of handsome texture — is to replace the sceatta as money of the realm."

Our Arts pages would be just as lively as they are now. NEW CHANT DEVEISED FOR CHURCH: "Christian worship is now being sung increasingly to a new set of chants, named Gregorian, after Pope Gregory the Great." This column would deplore the "vulgar fad." And Obituaries, sober to the last, would mark neatly the death of Bede. "He did not marry."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Army shame over Cyprus killing

From General Sir Michael Rose, Adjutant General

Sir, As the Army Board member responsible for personnel and discipline in the Army, I feel that I must write to correct the inference made in your leading article, "Memo to Portillo" (March 30), which suggested that the Army seeks to avoid taking responsibility or blame for the behaviour of its soldiers. This is simply not true. The Army has never regarded ill-discipline or drunken behaviour, whether on or off duty, with other than the utmost seriousness.

We are all deeply ashamed that three British Army soldiers should have perpetrated such a savage and despicable crime as the killing of Louise Jensen in Cyprus (reports, March 29, 30) and recognise that we have lost the vital public perception that we are worthy of the standards that we profess.

It has been the case that for some time past the military authorities in Cyprus have been tackling the problem of bad behaviour amongst off-duty soldiers on the island with great firmness. Disciplinary measures have included placing the tourist areas of Larnaca and Limassol under curfew and increasing the number of Military Police patrols in trouble spots.

The holiday resort of Ayia Napa, where the three soldiers had been drinking heavily before the crime, has also been placed out of bounds to all ranks. A serviceman was recently court-martialled, reduced in rank and imprisoned for breach of this regulation.

As your leading article pointed out, the Army can only maintain its high reputation if it faces all problems squarely. I would add that it is to do its job successfully, it must retain the respect not only of the nation, but also of those people around the world with whom it comes into contact.

We fully accept our responsibility for enforcing the highest possible standards of behaviour and discipline in the Army today, and where there is failure we, of course, recognise that such failure will bring great discredit both to the nation and the Army.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ROSE,
Headquarters Adjutant General,
Upavon, Wiltshire, SN9 6BE,
April 2.

From Mr Dudley Page-Brown

Sir, I was witness to the incredible complacency shown on TV by Brigadier Arthur Denaro, chief of staff and deputy commander of British forces on Cyprus, following the conviction of three soldiers for killing Louise Jensen. If anything, your highly appropriate leading article was not nearly critical enough of an episode that has done untold harm to the well deserved reputation of our Army for good behaviour and discipline, often under extreme provocation.

This was an isolated and thoroughly horrendous case, but nobody would blame the Army for what these men did. Brigadier Denaro is quoted as saying (report, March 30). That remark, to my mind, shows a lack of sensitivity and of good judgment.

Yours faithfully,
DUDLEY PAGET-BROWN,
58 Pelhams Walk, Esher, Surrey,
April 1.

In remembrance

From Mr Jens Frederik Hansen

Sir, Perhaps some inspiration from another country might add to the current debate concerning a Remembrance Day (letters, March 20, 26, April 1), particularly when that country is remembering its gratitude for the actions of the British.

Here in Denmark we celebrate the night of May 4 by illuminating the windows with candles. This marks the time, in 1945, when the lights went on again after five years of German occupation.

The lit candles in a dark house catch the imagination of even quite small children and thereby ensure that the tradition is passed on. At the same time the candle remains a powerful symbol of the ideals for which those who died had fought.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
JENS FREDERIK HANSEN,
Farneogade 3,
DK-2100 Copenhagen OE,
April 1.

The Queen in Poland

From Mr Patrick Howarth

Sir, Alan Hamilton's report (March 28) of the warmth of the Queen's reception in Krakow was gratifying news.

Fifty years ago, almost to the day, I stood in a street in Krakow and watched as a group of university students, in the friendliest possible manner, seized the British Ambassador, Bill Caversham-Bentley, and carried him shoulder-high through cheering crowds as a gesture of defiance to the Soviet-controlled Government.

What happened to those students as a consequence of their actions I was never able to learn.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK HOWARTH
(Press Attaché,
British Embassy, Warsaw, 1945-47),
Flat 2, Pencarrow,
The Avenue, Sherborne, Dorset,
March 28.

People's choice on monetary union

From Mr C. Mark Dixon

Sir, Sir Julian Critchley's comments (letter, April 2) and indeed the Chancellor's intransigence on a referendum on monetary union represent the height of arrogance and contempt for the people of this country. To say that it is for Parliament alone to decide an issue of such importance assumes that the people have been properly consulted in a general election.

Elections are fought on a number of issues and if we were to go to the polls tomorrow there would be little choice between the two major parties on monetary union. Both are trying to put off internally divisive issues, leaving us with no clear choice on Europe. The people would, however, exercise their vote on the balance of other issues. To state that the new government would then have a mandate from the electorate to decide further European integration is absurd.

To deny the people of Britain a clear-cut choice on an issue that will forever change the character and nature of the country is, in my view, undemocratic and indefensible. It is for this reason that my vote, which is the vote of a natural Tory supporter, will go to The Referendum Party when an election is held.

Yours faithfully,
C. MARK DIXON,
Boutells Farm, Henny Road,
Lamarsh, Nr Bures, Suffolk,
April 2.

From Mr Ralph Blumenau

Sir, Professor Landsberg (letter, April 2) believes that EMU is too technical an economic issue for a referendum: "a well-informed decision by members of Parliament is our main hope to get it right".

But most supporters and opponents of EMU are agreed that it is not primarily a technical economic but a momentous political decision. This the public is as capable of understanding as are the politicians, and it has a right to be consulted on a matter of such tremendous importance.

Since members of Parliament are likely to be fairly evenly divided on the technical as well as on the political aspects of the issue, the "expertise" of a small majority does not count for much either way.

Moreover, politicians did not "get it right" when they went into the ERM. That does not give one the confidence that they will "get it right" over the EMU.

In any case very many members of Parliament on both sides of the House will not exercise such understanding as they have of either the politics or the economics of the issue because

they are likely to be whipped by their parties. The whipping system has long since undermined the theory that our MPs exercise their judgment as our representatives. In this instance their vote on the long-term interest of this country will be heavily influenced by short-term party political considerations.

The public is far less likely than the politicians to decide this matter on such narrow grounds.

Yours faithfully,
RALPH BLUMENAU,
111 Princes House,
50 Kensington Park Road, W11,
April 2.

From Mr William Hall

Sir, I am appalled by the attitude adopted by Sir Julian Critchley relating to a referendum on the single European currency.

The British public have been deliberately and cynically denied any say on this subject by politicians who fear that their views may not be supported. This arrogance is precisely what has led the Conservative Party to its present state.

Yours faithfully,
W. HALL,
68 Bridle Lane,
Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands,
April 2.

From Miss Marion H. Coffman

Sir, I have today written to Sir Julian Critchley (with a copy to the Prime Minister) asking how he and others can put their beliefs above and beyond the control of those like me who do not want closer ties with and more subjugation by Europe.

The MPs categorised as Euro-sceptic by those who are terrified of them are not xenophobic; they represent my views, my family's and the views of everyone with whom I have discussed this issue.

This is the most vital matter to affect the nation in its entire history. Bleat as they may about parliamentary sovereignty and the responsibility of its members, they should be aware of the danger of their exclusion from its activities if they forget that Parliament belongs to us.

They are not entitled to misuse their position to take us down a road which we may not wish to travel. And the only way to find out what we wish is to ask.

Yours faithfully,
M. COFFMAN,
43 Bagworth Road,
Nailstone,
Nuneaton, Warwickshire,
April 2.

Standards at the bench

From Mr Nicolas G. Barber, JP

Sir, As a lay magistrate for over 20 years, I am surprised that Mr Francis Palmer (letter, March 27) should take exception to a letter from the Lord Chancellor severely criticising a magistrate on his bench who had been convicted of speeding. What did the JP expect — a gentle slap on the wrist?

I have always understood that if there is a problem with any member of a bench, and in particular with a new appointee, the chairman should be able to resolve the problem. If not, the Lord Chancellor's advisory committee, and ultimately the Lord Chancellor himself, would act on a recommendation or investigate the matter.

The procedure for selecting members of advisory committees has been under constant review in recent years. Their names have been made public, appointments are made from neighbouring committees, and lay members from all walks of life are appointed. Committees are often chaired by someone from outside their own area of responsibility. I believe that any demand for a further review is superfluous.

Incidentally, if a magistrate had been growing cannabis criminally for

ten years prior to his appointment (as was the case with the *Panorama* interviewee to whom Mr Palmer referred in his letter) he must have lied in his answer to the key question, which is about his personal affairs, when it was put to him at his interview by the advisory committee. Otherwise he would not have been appointed.

Yours faithfully,
NICOLAS BARBER,
Wethered Manor,
Sedgeford, Hunstanton, Norfolk,
March 28.

From Mr M. R. Sharman

Sir, I understand that once a new magistrate has been appointed he or she will serve until the age of 70 in the absence of serious misconduct. There is no probationary period.

So what happens if an applicant passes the interviews with flying colours and then proves a disaster in practice? Should not the performance of all new magistrates be monitored by members of the advisory committee for the first year or two, and the appointment then be reviewed?

Yours faithfully,
M. R. SHARMAN,
7 Taylor Avenue, Kew, Surrey,
March 28.

Private passions

From Mr Sadr Fear

Sir, Contrary to the views of Mr David Pannick, QC ("Protecting the right to private passion", Law, March 26), I consider that the case for outlawing discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation is very far from overwhelming.

In a free society, employers are entitled to use a whole range of criteria in determining whether an employee, or prospective employee, is suitable for a particular job. Some of these criteria, such as formal qualifications or ability to perform the job in question, will be objective; others, such as the character or behaviour of the candidate in question, will necessarily be subjective; traits that appeal to one employer will not necessarily appeal to another.

If, therefore, a particular employer should have a strong moral objection to homosexuality or bisexuality, it would be entirely wrong for the State to prevent that employer from taking his own moral views into account when deciding whom to appoint to a job. Far from protecting human rights, therefore, Baroness Turner's Sexual Orientation Discrimination Bill would diminish them.

Yours faithfully,
SEAN FEAR,
9 Aldenham Road,
Radlett, Hertfordshire,
March 26.

Concern for NHS complaints system

From Mr Toby Harris and Mr Arnold Simanowitz

Sir, We believe that despite more than three years of consultation and review the newly overhauled NHS complaints system, which comes into effect today, lacks true independence from the NHS and places unnecessary restrictions on complainants.

The changes intended to speed up the system and ensure that most problems are dealt with where and when they arise are welcome. However, patients whose complaints are too serious or complex to be sorted out at this level will have no right to an independent investigation.

Requests for a panel investigation are screened by a member of the health authority or trust involved in the complaint, and those who are refused may doubt the impartiality of the system. Even where a panel investigation is granted, there is no guarantee that there will be a hearing at which the complainant will present his or her case.

The role of the Health Service Ombudsman has been extended to cover for the first time clinical matters and to provide a right of appeal for complainants who feel they have been denied a fair hearing. These changes, although positive, are likely to lead to overload from dissatisfied complainants who have been refused an independent review.

In addition, users' rights to complain are restricted by an unnecessary and unwelcome time limit of six months. There is a wealth of evidence, set out in the Government's own inquiry into the complaints system under Professor Alan Wilson in 1993-94, that restrictive time limits merely serve to frustrate genuine complainants and add another layer of bureaucracy to the system.

The fundamental flaws of these procedures raise doubts about their effectiveness and undermine Government claims that the system will deliver benefits to complainants and the NHS as a whole. It remains to be seen whether these fears are justified. However, it is already clear that the Government has missed an important opportunity to set up a system that truly reflects the concerns of consumers.

Yours faithfully,
TOBY HARRIS
(Director, Association of
Community Health Councils for
England and Wales),
ARNOLD SIMANOWITZ
(Chief Executive, Action for
Victims of Medical Accidents),
Earlmead House,
30 Drayton Park, N5,
April 1.

Nightingale's drugs

From Mr Seweryn Chomet

Sir, A propos the medicinal habits of Florence Nightingale (letter, March 30), there is convincing evidence in biographical literature that she took laudanum (tincture of opium, containing about 1 per cent of morphine) and that she was not unusual in this.

For example, Dickens and Gladstone took a few drops of laudanum before speaking in public, and Princess Helena was a persistent user of this drug, much to the consternation of her fearsome mother, Queen Victoria.

Yours faithfully,
SEWERYN CHOMET,
King's College London,
The Strand, WC2R 2LS,
April 1.

Desperately seeking

From Mrs Elisabeth Evans

Sir, If the single life is so enjoyable ("Why we want to be alone", Weekend, March 23), why do so many people seek mates through the Rendezvous pages of the same section of your newspaper?

Yours faithfully,
ELISABETH EVANS,
2 Lord Roberts Mews,
Waterford Road, SW6.

Whose fool?

From Mrs Chris Handley

Sir, Few will mourn the demise of the customary April Fool spoof (leading article, April 1) when each day you expect us to believe the incredible. In the first two pages alone of today's issue you tell us, apparently with a straight face, that: Railtrack employees must travel by road; Coopers & Lybrand are investigating Oxford University; there is a Cherie Booth key ring; Jesus was a Mason; and Douglas Hogg might resign.

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS HANDLEY,
41 Leyborne Park,
Kew, Richmond, Surrey,
April 1.

From Mr M. J. Dobney

Sir, Despite your third (mis)leader, I spotted the spoof reports in today's newspaper. Those who govern Oxford University are not indecisive, Jesus was not a Freemason and Mrs Thatcher was warm and affectionate.

However, I have ordered a Cherie Booth fridge magnet.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL DOBNEY,
Hazeldene, Swoffling, Suffolk,
April 1.



COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 2: The Queen this morning visited HRH Princess Christian's Hospital, Windsor, and was received by Mr Raymond Seymour (Deputy Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire) and the Chairman, National Hospitals (the Lord Lane of Horsell).

Her Majesty toured the Hospital, escorted by Miss Pauline Johnson (Manager), and met patients and staff.

CLARENCE HOUSE
April 2: The Hon Mrs Rhodes has succeeded Dame Frances Campbell-Preston as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 2: The Prince of Wales this morning performed the official opening of Macmillan House, the South Durham Hospice of the Butterwick Trust, Woodhouse Lane, Bishop Auckland, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of County Durham (Mr David Grant).

His Royal Highness later visited Sunderland and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear (Colonel Sir Ralph Carr-Ellison).

The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community, visited the Ford and Pennywell Advice Centre Community College and the Pennywell School, Porchester Road.

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited the University of Sunderland's St Peter's Campus, St Peter's Way.

The Prince of Wales, Vice President, the National Trust, afterwards visited Gillside, near Rowlands Gill, Burnopfield, Newcastle upon Tyne.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 2: The Duke of Kent today took the Salute on behalf of Her Majesty The Queen at Lord High Admiral's Division, Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, Devon, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Devon (The Lord Digby).

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
April 2: Princess Alexandra, President of the Children's Country Holidays Fund, this evening attended a performance of the St John Passion given by the Orchestre of St John's Smith Square, London SW1.

Premium Bonds

The following Premium Bond prize winners were announced yesterday:
£100,000: 320 463,233, winner has a holding of £20 and comes from Cheshire: 4455 35707, £20,000, Cumbria.
£50,000: 36VZ 391420, £100, overseas: 1955 99845, £100,000, Kensington and Chelsea, London: 37NS 93294, £15,000, Suffolk.
£25,000: 335B 200374, £100, West Yorkshire: 12JK 824734, £100,000, South Yorkshire: 25C5 86841, £14,150, Essex: 36ZT 92287, £20,000, Lancashire.

Luncheon

aps and the Sedgwick Group plc. Mr John Bowers, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health, was the guest of honour at a luncheon held yesterday at the Conference Forum, El, hosted by national drugs charity and sponsored by the Sedgwick Group plc.

School Field, Rugby

A dinner is being held in London at the Navy and Military Club, 94 Piccadilly, on Thursday, May 9, in honour of Jim Williams, Housemaster from 1951-1964. All SFORs who were there when he was Housemaster, and whose address is known, have been invited to attend. Anyone who has not been contacted and who would like to receive details please write to: Alan Elliot, 142 Pavilion Road, London SW1.

Appointments

The following have been appointed members of the Employment Appeal Tribunal:
Employer members: David Chadwick, Lord Justice of Appeal, Diana Palmer, Peter Parker, John Rivers, John Shrigley.
Employee members: Peter Jacques, Sir Gavin Laird, Barbara Switzer, Robert Thomson (Scottish member).

School news

St Leonards and St Katharines Schools.

The spring term ended on March 22. Erika Bennett was named Acting Head of School and Emma Thompson Captain, from the beginning of next term. Lorna Brauburne and Lauren McQuade will be the Doweries. A new appointment, St Katharines School, will be Caroline Gregory.

Council has appointed Marissa Hamilton (former Headmistress) and Mary Levison (a Senior and the first female to become Queen's Chaplain) as Vice Presidents of School. Dame Kathleen Ollerenshaw continues as President. Mrs Joan Britain has been appointed Headmistress of St Katharines and will be in post from April 1. Mrs Mary James, Headmistress of St Leonards, has been appointed to the Governing Body of the Scottish Council for Independent Schools.

Scholarships have been awarded as follows: Judith Fitzgerald (St Katharines), Entrance Scholarship to St Leonards;

Katharine Calder (St Leonards) and Kate Knox (Cargillfield), Entrance Scholarships to the lower fifth; Cara Gorman (Ardreick), Science Exhibition; John Mackenzie (St Leonards), Gull Scholarship, Entrance Scholarships to the sixth form; Helen Ord, Scholarships; Mary Cruikshank and Exhibitions; Anna McElligott, major Music Scholarship; Kate Knox (Cargillfield), Music Scholarship.

As part of the General Studies programme of public lectures this term we welcomed Matthew Parris, Journalist and former MP; Tam Dalyell, Member of Parliament for Linlithgow; Professor Andrew Tannock, University of London; Stewart Conn and Tom Weir spoke and adjudicated St Katharines Poetry Competition and St Leonards Book Fair respectively.

An Open Day for parents of prospective pupils will be held on Wednesday, June 5. The summer term begins on April 17.

A very grand painting of a very modest Coronation



A visitor gazes reflectively at part of the longest painting in the Royal Collection, now fully restored

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE longest painting in the Royal Collection went back on public view yesterday after three years of cleaning and restoration, pristine and properly displayed for the first time this century.

At 12ft long and 23in deep, the R.B. Davis Frieze depicting the entire Coronation procession of King William IV and Queen Adelaide in 1831, occupies almost all the available wall space at its new home in the Carriage House of the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace.

Now returned to its original condition, of six panels each about 29ft long, it suffered last century from being cut up into smaller pieces to fit a corridor inside the Palace. Restorers who tackled the

painting found parts of it in near-ruinous condition after years of neglect. Now it glows again in its original colours, every one of the many hundreds of individual faces clearly visible. Even some of the painter's mistakes can be seen, where he put horses or men in the wrong order and had to block them out.

Viola Pemberton-Pigott, senior paintings conservator of the Royal Collection, said yesterday: "We hope the painting looks as good now as it has done for a very long time."

William IV was infinitely less extravagant than his brother George IV: his Coronation cost only £42,000 compared with £240,000 for that of his predecessor. Indeed he would have had no Coronation at all had not the Duke of Wellington

persuaded him of the need for a decent ceremony. William paid Richard Barrett Davis, primarily a painter of horses, £350 from the Privy Purse to depict the procession in precise detail.

The tradition of recording Coronation processions is of Tudor origin, but was usually confined to drawings or engravings bound into books. The custom was continued by the present Queen at her 1953 Coronation, and Felix Topolski's painting of her procession hangs in a private corridor of the Palace. None, however, is as grand, large or colourful as that of the most modest of monarchs who reigned for a mere seven years until succeeded at his death by his niece, the infinitely longer reigning Victoria.

University news

Dinners

HM Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrates
The Director of Public Prosecutions, Mrs Barbara Mills, QC, and Lord Williams of Mostyn, QC, were the guests of HM Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrates at their Annual Dinner held at the Middle Temple on Thursday, March 28. The Chief Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate, Mr Peter Badge, presided.

National Art Collections Fund
Mr David Barne, Director of the National Art Collections Fund and Mr Rupert Hamilton, Treasurer, were the hosts at a dinner for the National Art Collections Fund Prize held at the Savoy Hotel, on Wednesday, March 27. The Guest of Honour was the Chairman of English Heritage, Sir Jocelyn Stevens. The £15,000 Prize - sponsored for the fourth year by the Jernwood Foundation - was given to Sculpture at Goodwood for an outstanding contribution to the presentation of the visual arts. Two second prizes of £5,000 were given to the Ormeau Baths Gallery, Belfast, and the British Museum for the exhibition *The Paganism of Art of Umanora*.

Lieutenancy of Surrey
Mr Gordon Lee-Steere, of Hayes Park, Oakley, has been appointed Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey.

Oxford

Magdalen College
Mr Stewart Wood, BA, has been elected to an Official Fellowship and Tutor in Politics for five years from October 1.

St Antony's College
Elected to Honorary Fellowships: Mrs Monna Besse, Lord Bullock, Professor W. Roger Louis and Professor Sarvepalli Gopal.

Bradford

Honorary degrees
D.Litt: Jack Cardiff, Douglas Slocombe, cinematographers.
Appointments
Mr Jon Fletcher, post-doctoral research assistant at Liverpool university, has been appointed lecturer in medical microbiology in the department of biomedical sciences.

Mr Desmond John Tobin, research assistant professor in the department of dermatology, New York University Medical School, has been appointed lecturer in biomedical sciences.

Mr Michael Edward Tayles, lecturer in management accounting and finance, Loughborough University Business School, has been appointed lecturer in accounting at the university's management centre.

Mr Kenneth William Gadd, research assistant and project officer at the university's management centre, has been appointed Prudential lecturer in business

improvement at the centre. Mr Armin Schmidt, research fellow in the university's department of archaeological sciences, has been appointed lecturer in archaeological geophysics in the department.

Mr Tommy Ashdown, managing director of the Leeds Group of Joseph Dawson Holdings, and Mr Alan Jerome, chairman of chief executive of S Jerome and Sons (Holdings), have been appointed pro-chancellors for three years from January 1. Mr Ashdown has also been appointed chairperson of the Leeds University Council from August 1, 1997.

Chair
Hilary Rose, professor of social policy at the university from October 1, 1975 to September 30, 1993, has been appointed professor emeritus.

Dr David Jobber, reader in marketing at the university's management centre, has been appointed professor of marketing.

Hafiz Mirza, senior lecturer in international business at the management centre, has been appointed chair of international business.

Professor Andrew Taylor, chair of the Leeds University Business School, has been appointed chair of business information systems.

Dr John Weiss, reader in development economics at the development and project planning centre, has been appointed professor of development economics.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: King Henry IV, reigned 1292-1327, Reims, Lincolnshire, 1367; George Herbert, poet, Montgomery Castle, Wales, 1393; Washington Irving, essayist, New York, 1783; James Herzog, general, Prime Minister of South Africa 1924-39, founder of the National Party, Wellington, Cape Colony, 1866; Leslie Howard, actor, London, 1893; Henry Luce, publisher of *Time*, *Fortune*, *Life*, *Ten*, Chicago, 1898.

DEATHS: Bartolomeo Murillo, painter, Seville, 1682; John Berkenhout, physician and naturalist, Besselsleigh, Oxfordshire, 1791; Reginald Heber, bishop and hymn writer, Trichingopoly, India, 1824; Christopher North (John Wilson), writer and philosopher, Edinburgh, 1843; Sir James Clark Ross, Arctic explorer, Aylesbury, 1862; Jesse James, outlaw, shot dead, St Joseph, Missouri, 1882; Johannes Brahms, composer, Vienna, 1897; Richard D'Oyly Carte, promoter of Gilbert and Sullivan operas, London, 1901; Kurt Weill, composer, New York, 1968; Ferde Grofé, composer, 1972; Sir Peter Pears, tenor, Aldeburgh, 1986; Mr Graham Greene, OM, Ch. novelist, Vevey, Switzerland, 1991.

The first Pony Express started the regular 2,000-mile run from St Joseph, Missouri, to Sacramento, California, 1860.

Stalin was appointed General Secretary of the Communist Party, 1922.

The Brixton riots began, 1981.

Birthdays today

Mr Alec Baldwin, actor, 38; Professor Janet Bately, Professor of English Language and Medieval Literature, King's College, London, 64; Mr Tony Benn, MP, 75; Sir Jeffrey Bowman, former chairman, Price Waterhouse, Europe, 61; Mr Marion Brand, actor, 72; Mr R.S. Burman, former chairman, Association of British Chambers of Commerce, 56; Canon A.D. Casar, former Sub-Dean of HM Chapels Royal, 72; Dr Dennis Farr, former director, Courtauld Institute Galleries, 67; Mr William Gault, actor, 59; the Duke of Grafton, KG, 77; the Rev David Jones, former Headmaster, Brynston School, 62; Herr Helmut Kohl, Chancellor of Germany, 66.

Mr Jonathan Lynn, writer and actor, 53; Mr Eddie Murphy, actor, 35; Lord Justice Nourse, 64; Sir John Smith, CH, former MP, 73; Mr F.H. Tate, former vice-chairman, Tate and Lyle, 83; Sir Malcolm Thornton, MP, 57; Professor Kathleen Tillotson, Emeritus Professor of English, Bedford College, London University, 90; Dr H.C. Tomlinson, Headmaster, Hertfordshire, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs S. Mollay, of Achnill, Eire.

Mr J.J. Kisseam and Miss A.L. Yeatell

The engagement is announced between Simon Peter, youngest son of Major Tom Mitchell, Indian Army, and Mrs Mitchell, of Winslow, Buckinghamshire, and Carolyn Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Mawer, of Deben, Suffolk, Essex.

Mr M.R. Platt and Miss L.L.E. Tyler

The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Mr and Mrs Ronald Platt, of Oshott, Surrey, and Louisa, second daughter of Major General and Mrs Christopher Tyler, of Stratfield Saye, Hampshire.

Mr A.N. Raphael and Mrs J.J. Deaton

The engagement is announced between Mr Arnold (Raff) Raphael, of Stath, Somerset, and Mrs Jane Denton, of Spaxton, Somerset.

Mr J.M. Reilly and Miss E.K. Hockley

The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs Philip Reilly, of Reigate, Surrey, and Elizabeth, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Hockley, also of Reigate.

Mr T.R.G. Ryder and Miss G.E. Jackson

The marriage took place on Friday, March 29, 1996, at Kirkpatrick Jura Church, Beaulieu, Dorset, by Rev. Canon Richard George Ryder, only son of Mr and Mrs John R. Ryder, and Miss Gail Eliza Jackson, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Douglas J. Jackson.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M. de Lancy Walters and Miss V.H.E. Aldridge

The engagement is announced between Mark, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Simon de Lancy Walters, of Dogmersfield, Hampshire, and Victoria, daughter of Mr and Mrs Simon Aldridge, of Little Walden, Essex.

Mr M.C. Gachoud and Miss M.E. Hickman

The engagement is announced between Marc, son of Mr Yves Gachoud, of Knightsbridge, London, and Mrs Joyce James, of Ripley, Surrey, and Miranda, daughter of Mr Richard Hickman and the late Mrs M.R. Hickman, of St Brejode, Jersey.

Mr S.J.G. Grant and Miss J.E. Gorton

The engagement is announced between Matthew, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Grant, of Forfar, Angus, and Jennifer, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Rodney Gorton, of Disley, Cheshire.

Mr J. Jenkins and Miss C. Molloy

The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs John Jenkins, of Sawbridge, Hertfordshire, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs S. Molloy, of Achnill, Eire.

Mr J.J. Kisseam and Miss A.L. Yeatell

The engagement is announced between Ivan James, only son of Mr and Mrs Maurice Kisseam, of Solihull, and Anna Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Yeatell, of West Wickham.

Mr S.P. Mawer and Miss C.S. Mawer

The engagement is announced between Simon Peter, youngest son of Major Tom Mitchell, Indian Army, and Mrs Mitchell, of Winslow, Buckinghamshire, and Carolyn Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Mawer, of Deben, Suffolk, Essex.

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Mrs Jean Diana Smith, of Audlem, Cheshire, £1,034,671

Mr Richard Guy Lewis Smith, of Woodnewton, Cambridgeshire, £1,141,039

Mrs Christine Aline Stafford, of London, W1, £1,479,861

Mr Harry Furber Stiles, of Bantle, East Sussex, £642,150

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BITUARIES

Tom Wakefield, novelist and teacher, died from hepatitis on March 23 aged 60. He was born on December 13, 1935.

A STRIKINGLY late-flowering novelist who spent the first half of his career educating the mentally, physically or socially disadvantaged, Tom Wakefield continued to think of himself as much as an educator as an artist. His strange, generous novels, their comedy rooted in wilfully unpromising material, can certainly be seen as lively evidence of his abiding impulse to challenge and correct.

Tom Donald Wakefield was born in Cannock, Staffordshire, into what was then still a rural mining community. His father Dick was a miner, as were his numerous uncles. His mother Esther was a factory worker. Unmotherly, she was distant from her second son, finding him wilful, opinionated and odd. Temporarily laid off when his arm was mangled by a coal conveyor, Wakefield senior formed a close bond with the child, however, even as his wife was forced to work less sociable hours. Wakefield had little in common with his brother Ted, and later accused him of bullying.

In 1940 Wakefield entered Cecil Street Infant School in Chaddamore, where he came under the benign influence of a Miss Craddock. Enthused by her, he became obsessed with books. His atheist parents were aghast to discover that he was working his way through the local Sunday Schools, blithely careless of interdenominational conflict or the demands of faith, purely to earn books as attendance prizes. Against his mother's wish — that he earn a wage as soon as possible — he was plucked from the Cannock Secondary Modern to take up a bursary at Rugby Grammar.

There he met his first soulmate, another bursary boy called Colin Dando whose permissive publican mother Wakefield adopted as his own. Starstruck by afternoons spent worshipping screen sirens, the two not only discovered they could persuade glibly older boys to part with sweets and cash to use them for "kissing practice" but became hell-bent on stardom themselves.

While Dando did indeed become an actor, only to drown tragically young while touring Australia, Wakefield was persuaded to abandon stardust for chalk and move to London to what was then Trent Park teacher training college. After working in one of the bizarrely open-air "delicate schools" for the tubercular, he moved to Peterborough School in the then deeply unfashionable Parson's Green where

TOM WAKEFIELD



the amorous head teacher wooed him by leaving chocolate bars in his desk. In pursuit of more challenging work, he gained a Special Education diploma at Maria Grey College, Twickenham, and rose, through a stint at Colebrook School in Islington, to become head teacher of the newly opened Downview School in Hackney.

From there he moved briefly to work at Ickburgh but retired early from the post, partly because of chronic back pain caused by the strain of lifting children but chiefly to devote his time entirely to writing. In 1974 he published *He's Much Better He Can Smile Now*, an account of his experience at Downview, followed by *Some Mothers I Know* in 1978; but it was fiction that had begun to consume his interest.

A trilogy of picaresque novels about a Midlands lass braving a stage career in London began in 1977 with *Tride Trash*, *Star Ascending* and established his characteristically unadorned style.

He abhorred adjectives and, like Ivy Compton-Burnett, whom he acknowledged as his chief influence, favoured bald passages of dialogue over third person narrative.

Forties Child (1980) was a clear-eyed boyhood memoir. It was also his greatest commercial success, earning him a two-year period as an Arts Council writer-in-residence at Lancaster University. Although tantalisingly described as a first volume, no amount of persuasion could coax him to produce accounts of his next two decades.

However, the discreetly coded gay novel *Mates* (1983) and the story collection *Drifters* (1984) described the bohemian milieu in which he had moved since leaving Cannock. It also draws heavily on a loving, if sometimes stormy, domestic relationship he established in 1961 with a Church Army captain turned social worker who prefers to be known as "K". Wakefield came to feel bitter re-

morse concerning his harsh descriptions of his mother, perceiving the exhaustion and frequent, concealed illnesses this woman had suffered before her death in middle age. The remainder of his novels, which he wrote with newly mature assurance, can be seen as a succession of peace offerings to her problematic memory. In different ways they celebrated the social contributions and rich emotional lives of the sort of older women whom fiction tends to dispossess. *The Discus Throwers* (1985) and *The Variety Artists* (1987) were statements of a beguiling utopian vision. In each a single woman tastes romance and adventure at an age when society would have her discreetly retire.

Lot's Wife (1989) showed passion blooming amid the indignities of an old people's home. *The Other Way* (1991) had a single, and immensely fat, competition addict defying the patronising attitudes of the thin and married: while in *War Paint* (1993) the women of a wartime mining community have their lives transformed by an outlandishly glamorous schoolmistress only to discover, after her death, that she was a he.

Staunchly left-wing, though never a natural joiner, he strove at every turn to debunk or question the values of dominant culture. He believed the fundamental flaw of the education system to be its accentuation of chronology, holding that we should be allowed to drop out of and return to the classroom at any age.

He anathemised bigotry, cherishing anything that lay beyond the norm. He believed domesticity and fidelity were unnatural and overrated, held that we should all enjoy at least one "grand passion" yet the abiding love of his cheerfully promiscuous life was a companionate, spiritual one.

From 1969 until his sudden death from hepatitis C, following the diagnosis of acute angina, he lived in the same terrace house in the shadow of the Arsenal football stadium, much of the time with K and Beryl, the latter a notoriously recalcitrant tabby cat. There he recreated the village atmosphere of his childhood and became a cherished community figure, whether passing on valuable tips at the betting shop or standing in the garden to shake his fist in defiance at the morning bell being rung at St Thom's. A firm believer in the superiority of elective over biological family life, he delighted in counting many non-relatives as his "nephews" and "nieces" binding them to him by a blend of amused love and stern good counsel.

He is survived by K and by his niece, the story-writer Paula Wakefield.

GEOFFREY JAMESON

Geoffrey Jameson, CVO, vintner, died on March 7 aged 74. He was born on June 25, 1921.

GEOFFREY JAMESON was a knowledgeable and convivial pillar of the postwar wine trade in London. After a thorough apprenticeship with his father, he went on to forge his own career at Justerini & Brooks, that fine, bow-windowed Regency shop in St James's Street, which has supplied wine buffs in the area, as well as the Royal Yacht Britannia, for many years.

Jameson was well-suited by both his extrovert temperament and birth for his profession, being the grandson of the managing director of Jameson's distillery in Dublin. At Eton he was a member of Pop, and an outstanding sportsman, standing at 6ft 4in. He made a formidable presence on the cricket field.

When war was declared in 1939 he joined the 60th Rifles. The Greenjackets saw more than their share of action at Alamain. Their medical officer, Keith Badgett, suffered severe leg wounds and was carried by Jameson across the battlefield to a Jeep, where Jameson administered morphine. Jameson bravely made his way back to the thick of the fighting, but an hour later was shot to pieces, and so badly wounded that the stretcher-bearers thought he stood no chance of surviving.

Jameson was admitted to hospital in Alexandria, but his wounds were considered too severe to be dealt with there and he was moved on to Durban. His first recollection of Durban Hospital was waking, much to his pleasure, to find Keith Badgett in the next-door bed.

Invalided out of the Army, Jameson returned to England at the end of 1943, and began preparing for his career in wine. His father, Colonel K. E. Jameson, was well-established as a private wine merchant, and Jameson joined his father's firm. K. E. Jameson had then a flourishing business dealing with clubs, military and naval messes, and City livery companies.



All prices at that time were fixed by Retail Price Maintenance, which meant that no undercutting was allowed. Geoffrey Jameson developed an intelligent way of getting round this. He set up wine clubs for solicitors and regiments, members of which could buy at advantageous prices. While this was perfectly legal, it did not make Jameson particularly popular with the Wine and Spirit Association, which was trying to prop up a united, but ultimately losing front on this issue.

In 1953 when the Vintners' Company and the Wine and Spirit Association jointly established the Master of Wine examination, Jameson and five others passed at the first attempt. As membership increased an Institute of Masters of Wine was formed and Jameson was its chairman in 1971.

In 1963 Jameson left K. E. Jameson to take up an appointment with Justerini & Brooks, joining their shop in New Bond Street. Jameson became managing director in 1968, the year he set up the shop's new premises at 61 St James's Street. He ran the wholesale and retail business, overseeing the day-to-day running of the shop, until he retired in 1985.

He was known as the "gentle giant" in the office, and

gave many excellent lunches there, at the end of which guessing the shipper and vintage of the port for a fee raised substantial sums for wine trade charities. He also instigated a further competition which consisted of putting over a golf course laid out from the dining room down the stairs to his office for guests to enjoy on their way out.

Jameson looked after his team well, and this was obvious when he was put in to bat to negotiate annual wage increases. His love of the turf spread throughout the office and, although a disastrous tipster, he stirred great interest among his colleagues for national race meetings. He invariably won the sweepstake.

Despite a certain immobility because of his war wounds, Jameson was an active member of the wine trade. He was Clerk to the Royal Cellars, 1964-79, responsible for procuring wines for selection by the wine committee and for maintaining stocks in all the royal households, including the *Britannia*. For this he was appointed CVO in 1979.

He had been a liverrman of the Vintners' Company since 1943, joining the Court in 1974 and becoming Master in 1981-82. For many years, he was a member of the wine committee of Boodles. He was also involved in many wine trade charities, particularly the Tim Derouet Memorial Foundation, which he set up in memory of a friend in the trade. This enabled a newly appointed Master of Wine to receive a scholarship to visit a wine-producing country of his or her choice, and to increase their experience.

Jameson kept up his cricket and golf for as long as he was able. But for the last two years of his life he was confined to bed, after an accident in which he was dragged by his dog, Texas, over the bonnet of a car and across a road. Texas was forgiven, and became a faithful companion thereafter at Jameson's bedside.

His wife Margaret, younger daughter of the 1st Lord Killearn, died in 1993, and he is survived by his son.

ALISTAIR CROMBIE

Alistair Crombie, Lecturer in the History of Science at Oxford University, 1953-83, died on February 9 aged 80. He was born on November 4, 1915.

ONE OF the world's leading historians of science, Alistair Crombie had as his central interest the modes of scientific thinking as they developed within the intellectual context of medieval and early modern Europe. His abiding interest was the history of theories of the senses and in particular

the physiology and epistemology of vision and hearing, and their relation to the visual and musical arts. This was revealed and explored in his monumental work *Styles of Scientific Thinking in the European Tradition: The history of argument and explanation especially in the mathematical and biomedical sciences and arts*.

In this distillation of a lifetime's work, Crombie made a detailed comparative analysis of the forms of scientific reasoning developed within in European intellectual

culture, beginning with the Greek search for the principles of nature and argument itself and applied to an ever wider variety of subject matters.

Alistair Cameron Crombie was born into a landowning family in Australia and was educated at Geelong Grammar school. He began his university career as a medical student at Melbourne University. But he moved to Britain after completing his first degree and from then on spent most of his life there, more than half of it in Oxford.

He studied for a doctorate at Cambridge where he spent eight years in biological research. But during this time he also studied philosophy and gradually his interests moved in the direction of the history and philosophy of science.

In 1946 he was appointed to teach and direct research in these subjects at University College London. His first book *Augustine to Galileo: The History of Science AD 400-1600* was published in 1952. It was to become a classic in its field and was translated into seven different languages. While he was at University College, Crombie also helped to found *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* of which he was the first editor. Later, as president of the British Society for the History of Science, he organised the foundation of its journal. He was also joint founder and editor of the review *History of Science*.

In 1953 Crombie was invited to move to Oxford where he was elected a Fellow of Trinity College, and where he was to remain until his retirement in 1983. There he worked to establish the history of science as a normal part of teaching and research for students of science, history and philosophy. In 1953 he published his second book, *Robert Grosseteste and the Origins of Experimental Science 1100-1700*, in which he analysed the question of continuity and change in European scientific tradition from the middle ages to the 17th century.

In 1964 Crombie was awarded the Galileo Prize by

the Domus Galileana in Pisa. He became a leading authority on Galileo and this crucially important scientific figure was to occupy his thoughts for much of the last thirty years of his life.

The last two books Crombie was working on were to be called *Galileo's Arguments and Disputes in Natural Philosophy* and *Marin Mersenne: Science, Music and Language*. Both, though in an unfinished state, were distinguished studies of science as a rational and not merely a social activity. They were long in the making, and produced much controversy in the process.

Although in Oxford the personal animosities of those who did not share his vision occasionally prevailed over good sense, Crombie's circle of friends and professional admirers was wide, both nationally and internationally. He was president of the Académie Internationale d'Histoire des Sciences and held visiting professorships in the United States, Paris and Tokyo. He lectured in many European countries as well as in Australia and India. He was a Fellow of the British Academy and a corresponding member of the Academia Leopoldina — the Pontifical Academy of Sciences. He also held honorary doctorates of the universities of Durham and Paris.

In his spare time, Crombie was an enthusiastic landscape gardener, developing magnificent grounds at his home in Boars Hill.

His wife Nancy died in 1993. He is survived by their three sons and one daughter.

HIS HONOUR ALAN LIPFRIEND



Alan Lipfriend, Circuit Judge 1974-91, died on March 12 aged 79. He was born on October 6, 1916.

AFTER graduating in engineering from Queen Mary College London in 1938, and spending ten years on the design staff of Hawker Aircraft in the period spanning the Second World War, Alan Lipfriend decided on the risky career of a barrister. He was called to the Bar by the Middle Temple in 1948 at the relatively late age of 32.

But he soon showed the qualities of an outstanding advocate and quickly developed an extensive common law practice. His disappointment at not getting silk was mitigated by his appointment in 1974 to the Circuit Bench. He frequently sat as a High Court Judge in the Queen's Bench Division and the Family Division. Between 1978

and 1981 he was a member of the Parole Board. He looked the very model of an English judge, and for years a film clip showing him walking in the procession of judges at the opening of the legal year was used by the BBC in its documentaries on the judicial system.

His interests outside the law were wide. In his youth, which never really left him, he was a great sportsman. He played football for Corinthian Casuals and was a great Spurs supporter. He was an enthusiastic squash player and a keen golfer. He became a trustee and later chairman of the New London Synagogue. Between 1981 and 1989 he was a governor of Queen Mary College. He was also a governor of the Central Foundation School for Boys. The theatre was one of his great loves.

His wife Adele died in 1988. He is survived by his only son.

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Payment to witnesses under review

Link insufficient for passing off

Regina v West
Before Lord Taylor of Gossforth, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Mitchell and Mr Justice Newman (Reasons April 2)

The question of payments to the media to potential witnesses at a trial required to be reviewed: whether they should be prohibited, or if allowed, at what stage of criminal proceedings and with what, if any, control.

Lord Taylor of Gossforth, Lord Chief Justice, so stated when delivering reserved reasons of the Court of Appeal for having refused on March 19 leave to appeal by Rosemary Pauline West against conviction at Winchester Crown Court (Mr Justice Mantell) and a jury on 10 counts of murder, for which she was sentenced to life imprisonment on each count, the trial judge recommending that she should never be released.

His Lordship said that the answer to the issues raised by the question were not for their Lordships, who had been told that the Attorney-General had been apprised in October 1994 of the press payments and that consideration was being given to the problems raised by them.

Mr Richard Ferguson, QC and Miss Sasha Warr, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the applicant; Mr Brian Leveson, QC and Mr Andrew Chubb for the Crown.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE reviewed the facts and grounds of appeal.

Turning to press coverage in advance of the trial, his Lordship said that there was no doubt that it had been extensive and hostile to the applicant and her husband Fred West, who had committed suicide. Much of it had been directed at Fred and there were references to "House of Horrors". There had been criticism of the authorities for failing to stop West's murderous course when he

had been before a magistrates' court with the applicant in 1973. True, there had been also reports adverse to the applicant, referring to her as a nymphomaniac and a prostitute.

But, however lurid the reporting, there could scarcely ever have been a case more calculated to shock the public who were entitled to know the facts.

The question raised on behalf of the defence had been whether a fair trial could be held after such intensive publicity adverse to the accused.

In their Lordships' view it could. To hold otherwise would mean that if allegations of murder were sufficiently horrendous so as inevitably to shock the nation, the accused could not be tried. That would be absurd.

Moreover, provided that the judge effectively warned the jury to act only on the evidence given in court there was no reason to suppose that they would do otherwise. That ground of appeal failed.

Adverting to payments to witnesses, his Lordship said that a further ground of appeal had been raised on the conduct of the press. A number of prosecution witnesses had been paid or promised payment by newspapers in exchange for their stories.

Five witnesses had been paid sums from newspapers and a television company. One witness had been paid £750, twice. Another had a contract for £20,000 of which, at the time of the trial, she had been paid £7,500. Another witness had an agreement under which she was to receive some £30,000 for her story.

A fourth witness had been paid £8,000 by one newspaper, being £4,000 for photographs of her and £4,000 for the story which had appeared under the title "My kinky sex in house of horrors". She had agreed to appear in a television documentary programme to be shown after the case was over.

and had also received £1,000 for information provided to a journalist from a newspaper after the report of Fred West's death. She said in evidence that she understood that any television film could only be shown in the event of a conviction but the payment she had agreed was not conditional upon any film being shown.

A fifth witness had received £3,000 from a newspaper before trial. She presumed there was more money to come but had said in evidence that the money was not for her but for the family.

Mr Ferguson submitted that the money received or contracts made by the witnesses, who were important Crown witnesses, rendered their evidence tainted and suspect to the point of making the jury's verdicts unsafe. There was, he said, temptation for such witnesses to exaggerate. The more lurid their account the more valuable the contract. There might have been rehearsals before trial with journalists.

Whereas a story given to a police officer would be monitored, logged and disclosed to the defence, statements given to journalists were not handled in that way. There might be a conscious or subconscious desire in the witness to fulfil the agreement with the media.

Mr Ferguson submitted that that was particularly so in the case of another witness who had said in evidence-in-chief that she had not received any money from the press.

However, leading counsel for the newpaper group contacted leading counsel for the Crown to disclose an agreement which had been made between the witness and the group concerned. The defence had been told immediately. In cross-examination the witness admitted both the contract and the receipt of money.

In reply, Mr Leveson had made it clear that the prosecution devalued the payment of witnesses. Nevertheless, save in respect of the witness's contract of which the prosecution had been unaware until the disclosure, all the other contracts had been disclosed to the defence before trial, so that Mr Ferguson had been able to cross-examine about them.

The effect could only have been to weaken the Crown's case. Moreover, the trial judge had painstakingly gone through the contracts in detail in his summing up and warned the jury to have regard to the commercial motive which the defence suggested those witnesses had.

Their Lordships had carefully considered the effect of those contracts with the media. Their Lordships reached the conclusion that they did not in the circumstances render the verdicts unsafe. That was not to say that their Lordships wished to condone the

payment or promise of payment to witnesses in advance of a trial. Far from it. They believed that, in some circumstances, it could put justice at risk.

For example, as Mr Leveson had pointed out, one of the witnesses had felt that during his evidence and had to leave the witness box. That had been before the disclosure that she had received payments from the media. Had she not been fit to return to the witness box, when she had been able to be cross-examined about the payments she had received, the jury might well have been misled and the verdicts possibly put at risk.

In their Lordships' view, the whole issue of media payments to witnesses required to be reviewed: whether they should be prohibited or, if allowed, at what stage of criminal proceedings and with what, if any, control. It was not for their Lordships to answer those questions.

They had been told by Mr Leveson that the Attorney-General had been apprised in October 1994 of the material concerning the press payments and that consideration was being given to the problems raised by such payments.

In conclusion his Lordship said that Mr Ferguson had argued that there had been a dearth of evidence against the applicant. Their Lordships could not agree. At the heart of the case was the incontrovertible evidence of the bodies buried at 25 Cromwell Street, of the sadistic sexual abuse they had suffered in life and of the fact that the applicant and Fred lived in the house together throughout the period.

Given, as their Lordships had held, that the "similar fact" evidence was admissible, it showed that the applicant and Fred had been in the habit of sexually and sadistically abusing young girls in the cellar of their house for their joint pleasure.

There had been the evidence of Fred's admissions coupled with his late confession that he had been protecting the applicant. The jury had had the advantage of hearing and seeing the applicant give evidence and be cross-examined. Clearly they had rejected her evidence. Their Lordships fully understood their having done so.

The concept of all those murders and burials taking place at the applicant's home and currently grave sexual abuse of other young girls being committed by both husband and wife together, without the applicant being party to the killings was, in their Lordships' view, clearly one that the jury had been entitled to reject.

The evidence in its totality was overwhelming. Their Lordships had no doubt that the verdicts were safe and satisfactory. Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Severn-Thames.

Harrods Ltd v Harrodian School

Before Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Millett and Sir Michael Kerr (Judgment April 2)

In an action for the tort of passing-off it was not sufficient to demonstrate that there had been a connection of some kind between the defendant and the plaintiff. If it was not a connection which would lead the public to suppose that the plaintiff had made himself responsible for the quality of the defendant's goods or services.

A belief that the plaintiff had sponsored or given financial support to the defendant would not ordinarily give the public that impression. Many sporting and artistic events were sponsored by commercial organisations which required their names to be associated with the event but members of the public were well aware that the sponsors had no control over and were not responsible for the organisation of the event.

The Court of Appeal so stated in a reserved judgment dismissing, by a majority, an appeal by the plaintiffs, Harrods Ltd, from the dismissal by Mr Justice Harman on May 13, 1994, of their action against the defendants, The Harrodian School Ltd, whose use, the plaintiffs had alleged, of the name "The Harrodian School" in connection with a private preparatory school in Barnes, south west London, constituted the actionable wrong of passing-off.

Mr Charles Sparrow, QC and Mr Daniel Alexander for Harrods; Mr Simon Thorley, QC and Mr Colin Birss for the school.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said that the plaintiffs enjoyed a long established reputation and goodwill in the business of a department store which they carried on under the name "Harrods". They had had a sports club at

Barnes, which had been known since 1929 as The Harrodian Club, for members of their staff. That was purchased in 1993 by a company whose principal director and shareholder was Sir Alfred Houston-Boswell. It was subsequently run by Sir Alfred and his wife as a preparatory school under the name "The Harrodian School".

Deception was the gist of the tort of passing-off, but it was not necessary for a plaintiff to establish that the defendant consciously intended to deceive the public if that was the probable result of his conduct.

Nevertheless, the question why the defendant sought to adopt a particular name or get up was always highly relevant. It was "a question which falls to be asked and answered": see *Sodenstrom Ltd v Thorn Cocker Co Ltd* ([1982] RPC 459, 466) per Lord Justice Kerr.

If it was shown that the defendant deliberately sought to take the benefit of the plaintiff's goodwill for himself the court would not "be astute to say that he cannot succeed in doing that which he is striving every nerve to do": see *Slazenger & Sons v Feltbam & Co* ([1897] 6 RPC 531, 538) per Lord Justice Lindley.

The plaintiffs relied on the evidence of Sir Alfred that he took the name Harrodian after careful thought and because he believed it would be of advantage to him, being aware that it was a name that had been used to indicate a connection with Harrods.

The plaintiffs' skeleton argument put those named words into Sir Alfred's mouth. But he never said them. They were counsel's words, and although Sir Alfred agreed with them, his evidence taken as a whole clearly showed that the connection with Harrods was not the advantage which he had in mind.

Sir Alfred admitted that the name indicated that it was a club

owned by Harrods. But he insisted that his decision to call the school The Harrodian School was based on the long association of the name with the site and that the only advantage which he saw in the name was to indicate the location of the school on a site of 20 acres of fine playing fields close to the river.

In the classic case of passing-off, where the defendant represented his goods or business as the goods or business of the plaintiff, there was an obvious risk of damage to the plaintiff's business by substitution.

In *Taittinger SA v Allbev Ltd* ([1993] FSR 641, 669), the court appeared to have recognised a different head of damage. If the defendants were allowed to market their product under the name elderflower champagne "there would take place a blurring or erosion of the uniqueness that now attends the word 'champagne' so that the exclusive reputation of the champagne houses would be debased" per Lord Justice Peter Gibson.

Erosion of the distinctiveness of a brand name had been recognised as a form of damage to the goodwill of the business in a number of cases but unless care was taken that could mark an unacceptable extension to the tort of passing-off.

To date the law had not sought to protect the value of the brand name as such, but the value of the goodwill which it generated; and the law insisted on proof of confusion to justify its intervention.

But the erosion of the distinctiveness of a brand name which occurred by reason of its degeneration into common use as a generic term was not necessarily dependent on confusion at all.

The danger that if the defendant's product was called champagne then all sparkling wines would eventually come to be called

champagne would still exist even if no one was deceived into thinking that such wine really was champagne.

His Lordship had an intellectual difficulty in accepting the concept that the law insisted upon both the presence of confusion and damage and yet recognised as sufficient a head of damage which did not depend on confusion.

Counsel for the plaintiffs had relied strongly on damage of that nature, but it was, in his Lordship's opinion, not necessary to consider it further.

There was no danger of "Harrods" becoming a generic term for a retail emporium in the luxury class, and if such a danger existed the use of a different name in connection with an institution of a different kind would not advance the process.

The plaintiffs had failed on the evidence to establish any real likelihood of confusion or damage to their goodwill. His Lordship would dismiss the appeal.

Lord Justice Beldam delivered a concurring judgment.

SIR MICHAEL KERR, dissenting, said that if the staff club had been called "The Harrods Club", and all other facts had been the same, it would seem unthinkable that an injunction precluding the defendants from calling themselves "The Harrods School" would have been refused.

All the arguments about the disparity between the parties' fields of activity, the paucity of evidence of confusion, and the relative unlikelihood of damage, would go out of the window.

If so, could it really make any difference that the appropriated name was not "Harrods" but Harrods in its adjectival form? That was a question for the court, but in his Lordship's opinion the answer must be "No".

Solicitors: Herbert Smith; Bird & Bird.

Insufficient inquiry

O'Reilly v Coventry Coroner

An inquest which had not resolved documentary inconsistencies was not a sufficient inquiry within section 13 of the Coroners Act 1988 which provided that the High Court had power to order a fresh inquest where that was necessary or desirable in the interests of justice.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Otton and Mr Justice Newman) so held on March 6 when allowing an application under the fiat of the Attorney-General that the verdict of accidental death returned by a coroner's jury on October 12, 1994 be quashed and a fresh inquest ordered.

MR JUSTICE NEWMAN, cit-

ing *R v North Humberside Coroner, Ex parte Jamieson* ([1994] 3 WLR 82), said that an inquest should seek to establish a probable cause of events and if possible resolve ambiguities by inquiry.

Here the deceased appeared to have suffered a very rapid deterioration in health during the 13 hours he spent in custody prior to hospitalisation. On the face of it, there were inconsistencies in the custody sheets, police surgeon's record, ambulance and hospital records.

Those should have been investigated more fully and probably would have been if the documents themselves had been disclosed instead of reliance having been placed on oral evidence.

There had been the evidence of Fred's admissions coupled with his late confession that he had been protecting the applicant. The jury had had the advantage of hearing and seeing the applicant give evidence and be cross-examined. Clearly they had rejected her evidence. Their Lordships fully understood their having done so.

The concept of all those murders and burials taking place at the applicant's home and currently grave sexual abuse of other young girls being committed by both husband and wife together, without the applicant being party to the killings was, in their Lordships' view, clearly one that the jury had been entitled to reject.

The evidence in its totality was overwhelming. Their Lordships had no doubt that the verdicts were safe and satisfactory. Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Severn-Thames.

Care in community reason for staying on

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Zakrocki

Before Mr Justice Carnwath (Judgment March 29)

A British citizen who needed constant care was entitled to the benefit of the government's care in the community policy, the key objective of which was the promotion of domiciliary care. It was therefore unreasonable for the Home Secretary to refuse costs relatives leave to remain in the United Kingdom in order to render such care when there was evidence that no alternative arrangements could be made by the social services.

Mr Justice Carnwath so held in the Queen's Bench Division granting an application for judicial review to quash the Home Secretary's refusal on July 20, 1995 to grant Edward and Elizabeth Zakrocki an extension of leave to remain in the UK.

Mr and Mrs Zakrocki were in their sixties and came from Poland. In 1990 they were given leave to enter the United Kingdom for six months to visit her aged mother who died shortly afterwards. That left the problem of Mrs Zakrocki's brother, a British citizen also in his sixties, who had epilepsy, learning difficulties and spoke very little English. He had previously been cared for by his mother and was

now totally dependent on the Zakrockis for all the activities of living such as washing, dressing and cooking.

The Zakrockis were granted an extension of their stay in order to make arrangements for the brother's care. The social workers supported their application for further extensions, saying that the alternative of sending the brother into a home was very costly. In any event he was unwilling to go into a home or back to Poland.

Mr Rabinder Singh for Mr and Mrs Zakrocki; Mr Steven Kovatz for the Home Secretary.

MR JUSTICE CARNWATH said the critical issue was the

position of the brother who was entitled to be looked after in accordance with the government's care in the community policy which applied to British citizens.

There was no evidential basis to support the Home Secretary's assertion that arrangements could be made to have him looked after when the evidence was that no satisfactory alternative arrangements could be made.

The Home Secretary's decision was therefore unreasonable in the *Wednesbury* sense (*Associated Provincial Picture Houses Ltd v Wednesbury Corporation* ([1948] 1 KB 223)) and had to be quashed.

Solicitors: Ms Carol Blakemore, Hackney; Treasury Solicitor.

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Telephone: 0171 355 1773

More and more students are drawn to media studies, but few realise that the courses have little to do with a career in journalism

Beware the rise in hands-off lessons

A reader from Lancashire writes that her daughter wants to do media studies. What do I advise?

Put her on the stage, Mrs Worthington — or lock her up. My prejudices incline to those of another reader, a Fellow of the Royal Society, who wrote from Cornwall to say: "You may have noticed that it is always a danger sign when 'studies' or 'science' is tacked on to the name of the subject: it is almost a guarantee that it will not be the real thing."

But media studies are real enough, according to the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (Ucas) in Cheltenham, which has seen applicants rise fivefold between 1986 and 1994. Sixty-one of the 197 degree-conferring institutions throughout Britain offer this speciality, either on its own or as the major component of a two-subject course. Many others offer gaudy combinations including visual design, public relations and media management.

The sad thing is that many, and

maybe most, students are drawn in for the wrong reason. By and large, media studies are not vocational courses at all. They are certainly not journalism training courses. "Very few 18-year-olds appreciate that," says Professor Brian Winston of the Centre for Journalism Studies at Cardiff, which does offer a year-long training course, but at the post-graduate level.

Professor Peter Golding, head of the Standing Conference on Cultural, Communication and Media Studies at the University of Loughborough, says that media studies are a good pathway to a job — but not in media. "Universities are not the best place to learn about journalism," he says. He advises students to work for a year, and then think about journalism.

Professor Golding, whose committee has been charged by Ucas

with clarifying exactly what is being taught around the country under the banner of media studies, and to what standard, recommends that prospective students and their parents ask for a detailed outline and a first-year reading list of any course they are considering.

In early June, Ucas is planning to publish a pamphlet, to be sent to all schools, which will stress that undergraduate courses in media are non-vocational. For its part, the Newspaper Society, the organisation representing the regional and local press, announced last week that it will publish a league table of journalism courses so that editors and publishers will be better able to judge those claiming to be "trained".

But if only the divide between the academic and vocational, undergraduate and graduate, were as clear as it sounds. Unfortunately,



BRENDA MADDOX

the Government's funding policies invite universities to dress up undergraduate media courses with vocational trappings. This means that universities can claim from local education authorities a much higher fee (£1,600) for a student who is doing a "laboratory" or "workshop" course than for one who listens to lectures and writes essays (£750).

It must be very tempting, therefore, for university administrators to set up mock studios and newsrooms and encourage, say, media sociology students to cut film and design a page layout. Equally, it must be tempting for students to persuade themselves that they have had hands-on training.

To be fair, many students wish to study media for the inherent interest of the subject. Stuart Hall, professor of sociology at the Open University, disagrees with my view that media studies do not constitute a valid intellectual discipline. They are the literacy of our time, he says. They represent to today's students what the classics did for ages past. People used to study Greek and Latin, not to become classicists, he says, but to train their minds and to understand the world around them.

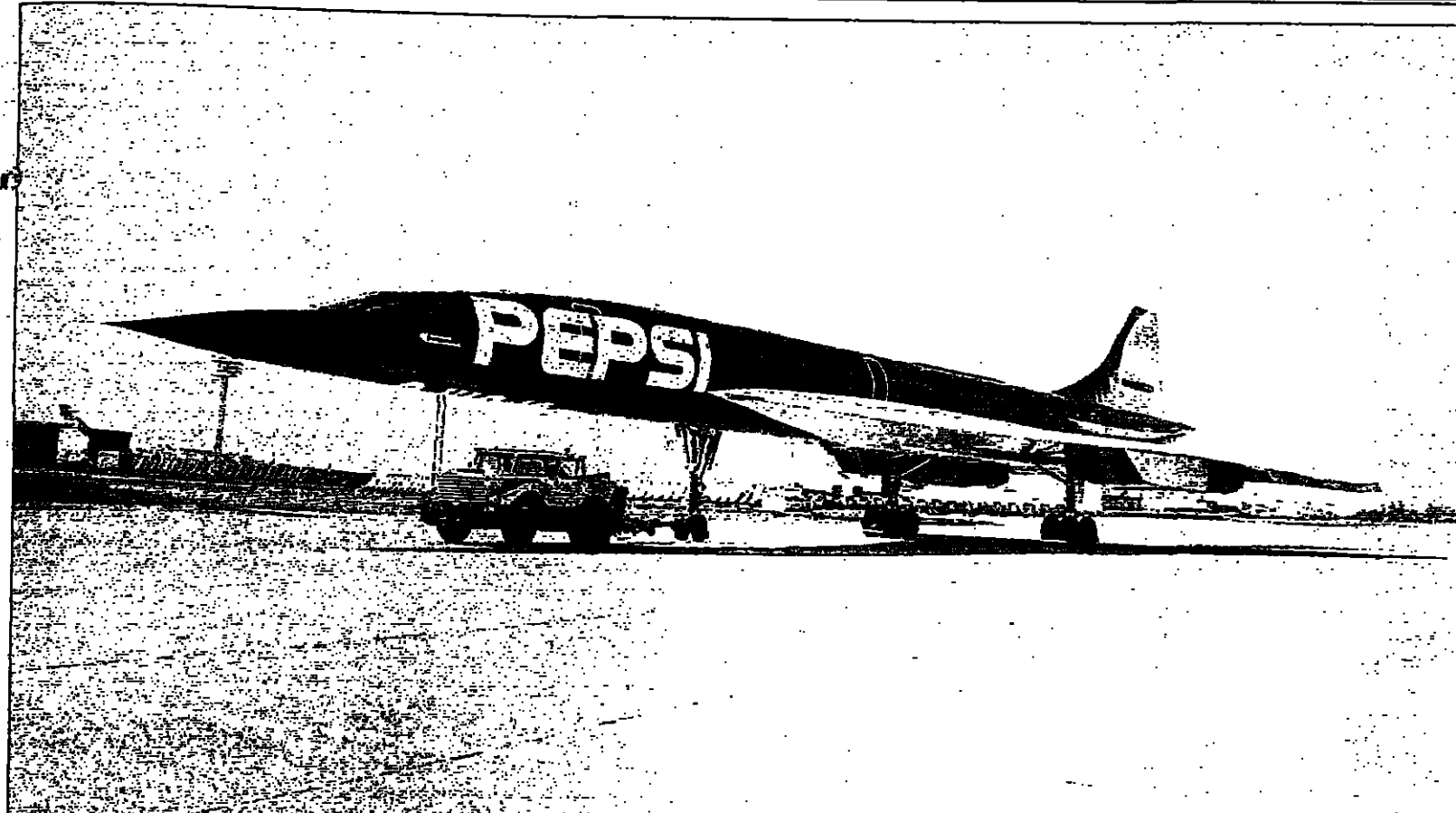
Media are a focus on life itself. Listening to his forceful eloquence, I am nearly persuaded. Does advertising change minds? What is the effect of globalisation of mass media? There is much to think about. I am particularly tempted by the new course he will offer at the Open University next year — "The Sony Walkman as a Cultural Object".

But I draw back. Media studies reek not only of trendiness — the history of Hollywood, for example — but of political correctness. The myriad courses on cultural identity and on racial and sexual stereotyping, the modish textbooks with titles such as *The Gendering of a Leisure Technology* (women's use of the domestic video recorder), smack of an in-built message ready to be preached. Even more, I dislike

how media studies emphasise the here-and-now. Even physics or engineering carry some trace of history. "Media" are simply too bound to the 20th century to classify as today's classics. The young people flocking to them seem to be what Yeats deplored as "unremembering hearts and heads" — utterly unconcerned with the past.

Various academic voices assure me that many media studies courses go back to Gutenberg. Of course they teach the history of the press and of the growth of the international publishing trade. Of course they include instruction in statistics, in the interpretation of research results, and in the development of international communication law. But only if they are good media courses, my advisers add.

So that's all right then. With the right media course your son or daughter will be as soundly and roundly educated as if in literature, science or philosophy. But you'd better shop around.



Pepsi has spent \$500,000 on launching its new-look cans (below), including repainting Concorde (above) and turning the *Daily Mirror* blue

Coke gives Pepsi the blues

It's cola wars time again, but whatever the image the product remains the same, says Alan Mitchell

Turn the Dolby sound to full volume, set the lights flashing and get the smoke machines pumping. Yes, the cola wars razzmatazz machine is going full-steam ahead again. By turning its can blue, Pepsi Cola has unveiled "one of the most significant moments" in its history. You name it and Pepsi marketers have come up with a gimmick to make us sit up and imbibe its Coke-bashing message: "Red is what was. Blue is the colour of the future."

It added supermodel Claudia Schiffer and tennis star Andre Agassi to its "Pepsi family" of advertising stars, led by the "First Lady of Pepsi", Cindy Crawford. It decked out a Concorde in Pepsi livery, at a cost of £125,000, and cajoled astronauts on Russia's Mir space station to drink our health with the fizzy liquid. It even managed to get the *Daily Mirror* to erase the fine distinction between advertising

and editorial, with a special blue masthead and full-page promotion of the stunt.

The design agency, Landor, sifted 3,000 potential designs to come up with Pepsi's new brand ID. Among the highlights: the old italic script is now upright because that subliminally sends us the message that the brand is more "confident" and "stands on its own two feet", says the lead designer, Richard Brandt.

The old Pepsi ball has become a globe because "making it globe brings Pepsi's stature home". And the globe has a glow on its edge to symbolise the dawning of a new millennium. "The competition reinforces its roots in the past. But our design is very important to young people. We symbolise that the new millennium is a new beginning."



The colour is crucial. Pepsi's new blue is modern, on the move, fun and dynamic, says John Swannhaus, Pepsi's senior vice-president of international marketing. "Blue is as deep as the ocean and as high as the sky. It's much more refreshing than Coke."

Yet, compared to Coca-Cola's famous contour bottle, its legendary script writing and its name recognition (Coca-Cola is the globe's second most recognised phrase behind "OK"), Pepsi lags way behind in the image stakes.

And Coke also owns the colour red. "It's very easy for the competition to take over a stadium. But with the old red, white and blue it was very difficult for us," says Mr Brandt. "Presence is everything," says Mr Swannhaus.

Over the next two years, he will be spending \$500 million repainting 30,000 Pepsi trucks and 500,000 vending machines, along with billions of new cans and global advertising destined to reach 300 million people.

But this is the ultimate in post-modern marketing: all hype and no substance. It is

the marketing of marketing. Hundreds of television crews and newspaper paparazzi may rush to get the latest pictures of Cindy or Claudia, but in the end there is nothing new or improved about the product.

And Pepsi faces the same old problems. While Pepsi has recently signed a global deal with MTV which helps it to target the youth market, Coke has tied up high-profile events such as the Olympics and Euro 96.

Mr Swannhaus admits that cola wars are valuable marketing hype but the real battle is among the bottlers, the corner shops and vending machines. Having invested \$3 billion building its distribution over the last three years, Pepsi is making some headway — but not much. Coke's annual marketing budget is \$3.8 billion and it is growing annually by nearly as much as Pepsi is spending on its re-launch. Being so far behind the market leader will keep on giving Pepsi the blues.

Observer's pulse set to race again

Brian MacArthur on the paper's new talents at the top



New Editor Will Hutton (top), and Peter Preston

Independent on Sunday, which recently declared itself for a republican Britain. The strengths of *The Observer* have always been politics and culture. Under *The Guardian's* ownership neither has flourished — and the sharpest, most thought-provoking Sunday columnist from the left,

Robert Harris, now writes in *The Sunday Times*.

Yet in Mr Rusbridger it now has an Executive Editor who has demonstrated his talent in both areas (and revolutionised *The Guardian* in the past 15 months) and in Mr Hutton an Editor who is passionately consumed by politics and economics. It is a combination of talents that ought at last to set the pulse of *The Observer* racing again.

Admirers of Mr Preston will be glad that his obsession with *The Observer* is no longer in danger of destroying a brilliant reputation. When *The Independent* was launched Mr Preston judged correctly that it was a direct threat to *The Guardian*. He saw off the upstart by revolutionising the design, content and marketing of *The Guardian*. When *The Independent* on Sunday was launched, he backed *The Sunday Correspondent* to spike its guns and then beat *The Independent* to buy *The Observer*, since when he has suffered the fate of daily editors — Andreas Whitam Smith of *The Independent* was another — who try to conquer the different culture of the Sunday paper.

Mr Preston always saw the revival of *The Observer* as a long-term operation, but the flair and judgment that he brought to *The Guardian* deserted him when he became Editor-in-Chief of *The Observer*. Yet few editors survive ten years, let alone 20, an achievement Mr Preston shares only with Sir David English of the *Daily Mail* in the past 30 years. His lasting memorial is the success of *The Guardian* and his ability, again shared with Sir David, to nurture in Mr Rusbridger a successor of equal flair.

Roy Greenslade argues that rigorous, and sometimes underhand, investigations do serve the public interest

Setback for press freedom

Behind every story there is, invariably, another story. Sometimes these are fascinating, yet they rarely reach public attention because they are too arcane, too complex or too embarrassing. Here is one that is all three, but it should be told because of its far-reaching implications for press freedom.

It began in July 1994, when *The Sunday Times* published its cash-for-questions investigation. It claimed that two Conservative MPs, Graham Riddick and David Tredinnick,

had accepted £1,000 each for tabling a parliamentary question.

Soon after, John Major set up the Nolan committee to look into standards in public life. The two MPs were suspended from the Commons. When Mr Riddick complained to the Press Complaints Commission (PCC) that the paper had obtained its story unfairly,

the paper was cleared. The newspaper's insight reporters went on to win two awards for the investigation.

Then, in April last year, the Commons Committee on Privileges alleged that there had been a discrepancy in the evidence and asked the PCC to reconsider the whole affair. But by this time there was a new chairman, Lord

Wakeham having succeeded Lord McGregor.

The PCC deliberated for months. It finally wrote a lengthy letter to the committee last week which completely overturned its original adjudication.

It implies that Lord McGregor made a critical error in going ahead with the original inquiry because Mr

Riddick withdrew his complaint and offered no evidence. So the decision was based on a one-sided argument. "This was a serious breach of our procedures," says the letter.

Then the PCC points out that there was no record of the initial, disputed conversation between Mr Riddick and the journalist because his hidden tape-recorder did not work. It criticises the paper for not making clear why Mr Riddick, who accepted the cheque at first, then returned it.

But the substantive assault on the paper begins with the revelation that the newspaper set out on its investigation after a businessman told reporters that four MPs had accepted payments from him. The whistle-blower demanded that it not investigate his specific allegations.

That was the point at which the Insight team decided to take a random sample of 20 MPs — ten Tory and ten Labour — and offer them money. The Committee of Privileges called this "entrapment through deception" and the PCC clearly agrees.

Though the paper had been told about the practice of MPs being paid to ask questions, the PCC contends it was not "sufficient to justify a random attempt to lure MPs to accept

payments by a direct invitation to behave improperly".

Unsurprisingly, Mr Riddick seized on the PCC's letter as vindication. In a trenchant leader on Sunday, the paper countered with a reminder of Mr Riddick's suspension by his fellow MPs and defended its use of subterfuge.

To confuse matters, the PCC has just rejected a complaint from another MP, Barry Porter, against *The Sunday Times*. The paper alleged that he was willing to accept £1,500 from a business client to arrange a meeting with a minister. And what methods did the paper use to reveal this fact? Subterfuge, of course. But this was subterfuge which the PCC viewed as defensible within the code of conduct.

The hair-splitting difference between the Porter and Riddick cases is that the paper had specific information about Mr Porter, but that Mr Riddick was entrapped in a "random subterfuge". The PCC has decided that this practice should be outlawed.

Even taking into account the problems the PCC faced in dealing with its earlier mistakes, this is a poor decision. There cannot be any doubt that there is legitimate public interest in MPs' finances. The PCC's ruling is an unfortunate setback to press investigations and carries with it just a hint of a political fix. All editors should rally to the support of *The Sunday Times*.

City types love a pro

THE mark of a metropolitan is, it seems, a preference for well-scrubbed professional women over gritty working girls — at least, in terms of television heroines.

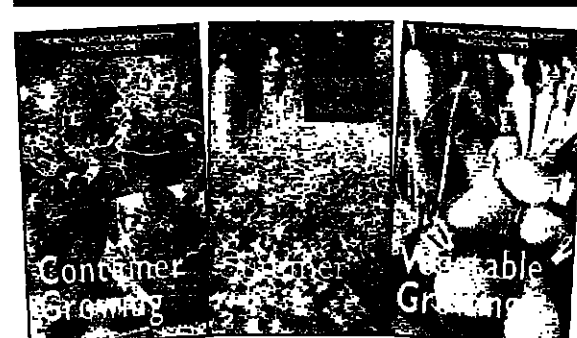
Comparative top tens of national network and London region viewers show that capital men and women are hooked on Dr Sam Ryan (Amianda Burton) in *Silent Witness* while the nation as a whole prefers Rose (Geraldine James) in *Band of Gold*. Both groups love *Ballykissangel* (number three in both charts) and *The Bill*, as well as British soaps except *Brookside*.

THE TIMES TOP TEN NATIONAL NETWORK TV LONDON

| NETWORK | Date | Time | Channel | Programme | Audience | TVR* |
|--------------------------|--------|-------|---------|----------------|----------|------|
| 1. Coronation Street | Wed 13 | 19.30 | ITV | Granada | 18.7 | 34.7 |
| 2. EastEnders | Tue 12 | 19.31 | BBC1 | BBC | 16.9 | 31.2 |
| 3. Ballykissangel | Sun 17 | 19.32 | BBC1 | World/BallyKee | 14.8 | 27.4 |
| 4. National Lottery Live | Sat 16 | 19.50 | BBC1 | BBC | 14.2 | 28.3 |
| 5. The Bill | Thu 14 | 19.59 | ITV | Thames | 13.7 | 25.4 |
| 6. Emmerdale | Tue 12 | 19.00 | ITV | Yorkshire | 12.6 | 23.4 |
| 7. Antiques Roadshow | Sun 17 | 18.47 | BBC1 | BBC | 12.6 | 23.3 |
| 8. Peak Practice | Sun 17 | 21.00 | ITV | Carlton UK | 11.7 | 21.6 |
| 9. Band of Gold | Wed 13 | 21.00 | BBC1 | Granada | 11.4 | 21.1 |
| 10. Nine O'Clock News | Wed 13 | 21.00 | BBC1 | BBC | 11.4 | 21.1 |

*TVR is a rating of the actual number of viewers as a proportion of the total possible audience.
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FT SE TRIAL MEMBERSHIP

Times readers can also become a member of the RHS for four months free of charge. The trial membership covers May, June, July and August, the best time of year to appreciate some of the most beautiful gardens in Britain which you will be able to visit with a friend without paying. Another membership application form will appear on Friday and for the videos, an order form will appear again on Saturday. You should attach the relevant four tokens to the corresponding application form.



NEWS

Major wins battle for referendum

The Cabinet will agree today to hold a referendum on a single currency if the Conservatives win the next election and decides to join. The decision will be a victory for the Prime Minister over Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine.

It is expected that the announcement will be made in a statement from Conservative Central Office and say that the pledge will be included in the Tory manifesto. Page 1

Woolwich chief dismissed

The chief executive of the Woolwich Building Society was dismissed after only three months in the £300,000 post, amid allegations that he misused company cars and facilities. Peter Robinson was told that he had lost the trust of his fellow directors after an internal audit. A six-figure sum is said to have been involved. Page 1

Cyprus disgrace

British soldiers and airmen serving in Cyprus will be sent home in disgrace if found guilty of breaching proper standards of behaviour off duty and upsetting the local community. Page 1

Britain under fire

Britain came under fierce pressure at a meeting of European farm ministers in Luxembourg to take more radical steps to calm the public panic in Europe over "mad cow" disease. Page 2

Hospital inquiry

Police are investigating the deaths of four seriously ill patients, including two children, in a hospital intensive care unit. Page 3

'Ferried' child died

A boy of 23 months was ferried between four hospitals before he died during surgery, an inquest in the West Midlands was told. Page 4

Male pill hope

The World Health Organisation remains convinced that a male contraceptive pill must be found despite scepticism from drug companies. Page 5

Bed and bureaucracy

Tourist inspectors are in danger of destroying the British bed and breakfast by insisting that they have telephones, television and trouser presses says the Consumers' Association. Page 6

Shergar hunters win by a hair

Two hairs taken from Shergar by souvenir hunters may prove the key to unlock the mystery of what happened to the £10 million Derby winner after he was kidnapped in 1983. They will be used by an Irish laboratory which has been told that it is to be sent the body for identification. The horse is said to have been exhumed in Donegal. Page 1

Exam criticism

One of the most successful independent schools has been criticised by inspectors for placing too much emphasis on examinations. Page 8

Asbestos ruling

An engineering company lost its appeal against a High Court decision that it must pay £115,000 to two cancer victims who played in asbestos dust when they were children. Page 9

Labour rebels

Thirty-one Labour MPs defied the party leadership by opposing anti-terrorist legislation. Page 10

Clinton accused

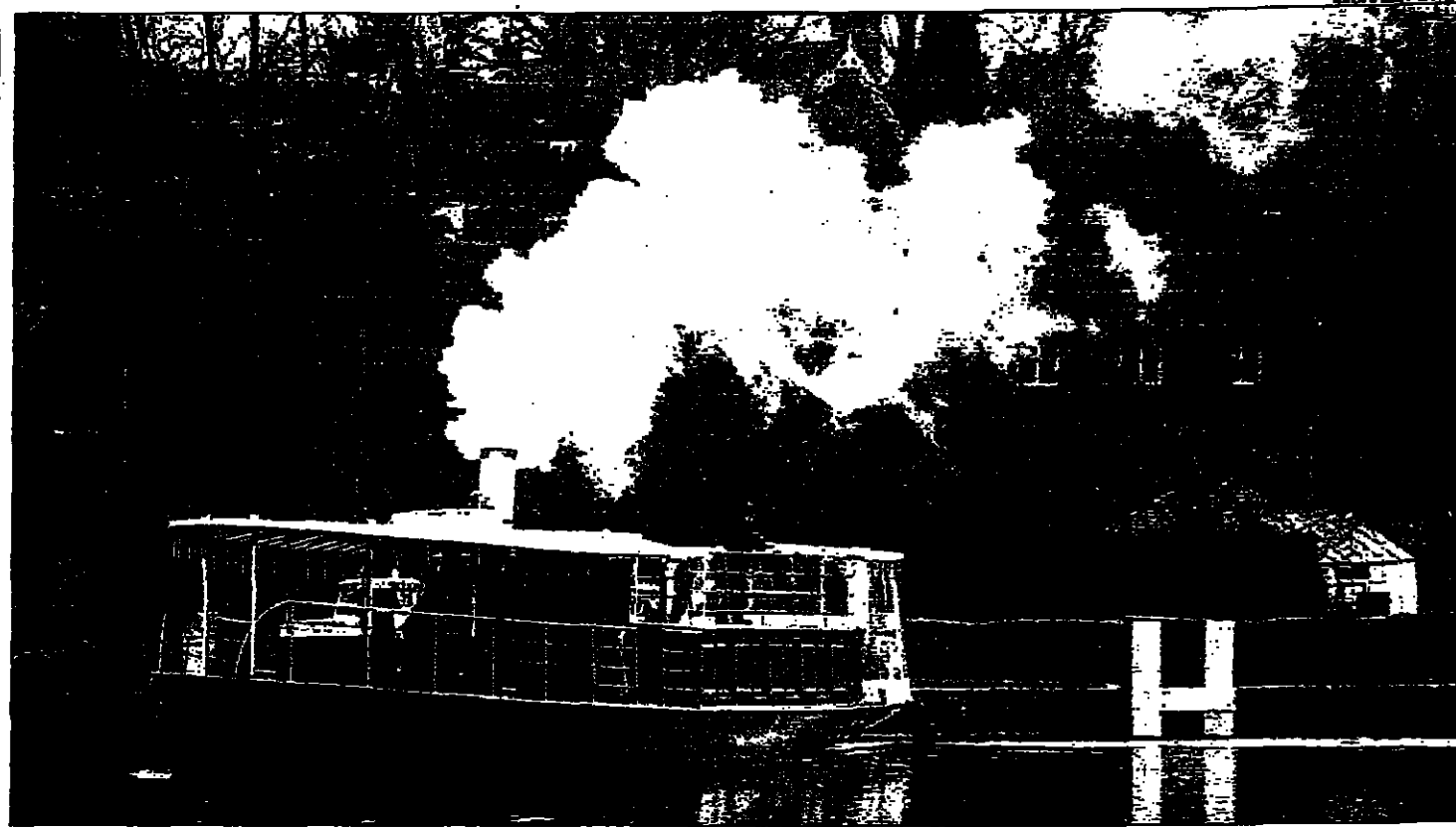
A conspiracy to milk federal lending banks of £1.97 million was hatched at a kitchen table in Arkansas between three close associates of President Clinton, according to his chief accuser. Page 11

Refugee crisis

Hutu militiamen and Zairean soldiers have launched a pogrom against Tutsis in Zaire, driving hundreds of refugees into Rwanda, said United Nations officials. Page 12

Instant republic

Unnoticed by the outside world, a small Armenian state, the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, has formed in the southern Caucasus for the first time since the seventh century. Page 13



The Streteley, an 85-ft steamship built in 1905, was relaunched from her original slipway in Oxford yesterday after a £200,000 restoration

BUSINESS

Rover: The BMW car firm incurred a loss of £150 million. The company insisted that the losses stemmed from a change in accounting procedure and that under UK accounting conventions, it would have made profits. Page 23

Getty: The family, long-associated with oil, is branching out with the purchase of one of the most famous photographic portfolios, the Hulton Deutsch Collection. Page 23

Cliveden: The hotel group whose prime asset is the high-society country house unveiled the prospectus for a stockmarket flotation. Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 10.1 to 3728.5. Sterling fell to 83.5 after falling from \$1.5255 to \$1.5244 and DM2.2623 to DM2.2589. Page 26

SPORT

Football: Jamie Redknapp, who plays for Liverpool against Newcastle tonight, could not have found a better week for his comeback after spending nearly five months on the injured list. Page 44

Cricket: Sanath Jayasuriya, who was named leading player in the recent World Cup, hit the fastest hundred in one-day internationals, off 48 balls, for Sri Lanka against Pakistan. Page 44

Squash: Peter Nicol, the British national champion, suffered his fourth successive first-round defeat in the British Open. Page 39

Rowing: Cambridge look likely to enter the Boat Race with only two full-blown preparatory races, while Oxford continue to take on all-comers in their build-up. Page 39

ARTS

Plea on Paternoster: Marcus Binney argues the case for turning the surroundings of St Paul's Cathedral from an eyesore into a sight for sore eyes. Page 33

Thumb down: Nigel Williams's new play about the Cambridge don F.R. Leavis, *The Last Romantics*, fails to stimulate its Greenwich audience. Page 34

In praise of Doris: A new stage show focuses on the songs, more than the troubled private life, of Doris Day, in an effort to show how the music has affected people's lives. Page 35

Young at Art: How a Greenwich theatre company is giving children from primary schools a taste of Greek drama — and moral philosophy. Page 35

FEATURES

Coming out comeback: As the debutante season opens, Rachel Kelly reports on the return of the society photograph. Page 14

Full stop: Has Michael Howard succeeded in changing a 500-year pattern by preventing Gypsies from roving? Page 14

New age nonsense: The you're-only-as-old-as-you-feel line is palpably untrue, says Nigella Lawson, and no amount of New Age nonsense can change that. Page 15

Floral dance: Garages are joining the rush to offer sprays of flowers but fashionable people are going back to the countryside. Page 15

MEDIA

Media mania: More and more students are attracted to media studies but how many realise that the courses have little to do with a career in journalism? Page 21

Fine line: The difference between justifiable and unjustifiable subterfuge can be hair-splitting. Page 21

HOMES

Stately price rise: The slump hit historic houses hard but now prices are rising again. Page 36

THE PAPERS

Boris Yeltsin is not the first political leader to discover that it is harder to end a war than to start one but he is fast learning that painful lesson in Chechnya. — *New York Times*

Preview: A drug addict, a drag queen and a pub comedian spend a Saturday night in Leeds. *Modern Times* (BBC2, 9pm) **Review:** Matthew Bond welcomes the return of *Cardiac Arrest*. Page 43

Mission possible

If, for the Nato force charged with implementing the Dayton accord, is now a quarter of the way through its mission. The ceasefire is holding, the armies have been parted; but that is about all. Page 17

Hard pounding

At last John Major has taken the decision to hold a referendum on a single currency. This was always going to be the right decision: the question was whether he was prepared to take it in the face of opposition from Kenneth Clarke. Page 17

Back to the future

Adjust your clocks, tickle up your time-machines, stock up on history books: a statelet from the distant past has sprung to vibrant life again. Page 17

JOHN REDWOOD

The Cabinet is apparently poised to grant a referendum on a single currency. After weeks of delicate manoeuvring around the Cabinet table, the veiled threats and subtle pressures have ended in an agreement of a kind. Page 16

SIMON JENKINS

The so-called Prevention of Terrorism (Additional Powers) Bill being rushed through Parliament is a nasty piece of legislation. Whether it is needed to counter a "public emergency" is moot. Page 16

PETER RIDDELL

The Cabinet debate over a referendum on a single currency was in danger of turning into something quite different — an argument over the Tory party's attitude towards Europe. Page 10

OBITUARIES

Tom Wakefield, novelist: Geoffrey Jameson, winner, Alistair Crombie, lecturer in the History of Science at Oxford; Alan Lipfriend, Circuit Judge. Page 19

LETTERS

General Sir Michael Rose on the Cyprus killings; the electorate's choice on monetary union; NHS complaints. Page 17



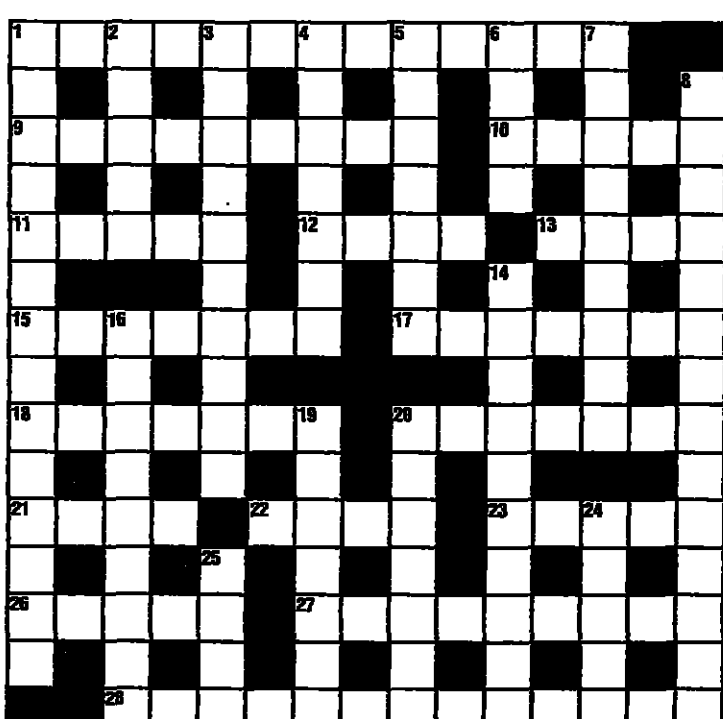
TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

FILMS
Small Faces, the award-winning British film, plus the week's other new releases

BOOKS
A.S. Byatt on Doris Lessing's *Love, Again*; Daniel Johnson on Thomas Mann

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,132



ACROSS

- 1 Producing fuel in vehicle British provided in difficult situation (13).
- 9 Being given novel about one good-goddy (9).
- 10 Brush handling (5).
- 11 Group of theologians in university, male in composition (5).
- 12 One in exaltation means to have fun (4).
- 13 Favourite speaker Liberal Party put in (4).
- 15 Slightly indecent and arrogant, changing leader (7).
- 17 Heavy metal removed from programme, for a start (4-3).
- 18 Third act of Julius Caesar? Nothing, to us, is so violent (7).
- 20 Prince's friend gets correspondence on house (7).
- 21 Travel by rail can be horrific... (4).
- 22 ...so take coach south, for a smacker (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,131

VILANDS SPARDECK
A N I U R A N A
N O N P L U S A L R E A D Y
C U E E C E M A
O B I T E R A T E W O R K
U A T I A U
V A R I A N T C A B A R E T
E N A A O H
R E C I T A L L O V A B L E
A E L E R R
P A R T M O L L Y B L O O M
A N F R A O N A
S E A W E E D C H A N G E L
G L E E R H L
A P E R T U R E O D D I T Y

DOWN

- 1 Go on a mundane round trip (14).
- 2 Regret about church leaders showing laced frill (5-4).
- 3 In this state, issues raised by other people (10).
- 4 I flirt, embracing sweetheart in best possible way (7).
- 5 Absorb hard-hearted change in rental (7).
- 6 Food for horse felt to be frisky (4).
- 7 Safe job a bit of a fiddle? (5-4).
- 8 Irish biography revealing carefree existence (3,4,2,5).
- 14 Confirmation, for example, on old capital for state (10).
- 16 Initially chancy in nature, possibly (9).
- 19 Crusoe's fresh supplies (7).
- 20 Glory for King's governess supports short stockings! (7).
- 24 Work on plaster that's firm after short time (5).
- 25 Staunch supporter for Lily (4).

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 42 per cent of the solo competitors in the Edinburgh Regional Final of *The Times* Abernethy Crossword Championship and by 62 per cent of the pairs.

Times Two Crossword, page 44

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 500 followed by the appropriate code:

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| London | 701 |
| North East | 702 |
| North West | 703 |
| Yorkshire | 704 |
| East of England | 705 |
| West of England | 706 |
| South East | 707 |
| South West | 708 |
| Wales | 709 |
| Scotland | 710 |
| Ireland | 711 |
| Channel Islands | 712 |
| Islands | 713 |
| London | 714 |
| North East | 715 |
| North West | 716 |
| Yorkshire | 717 |
| East of England | 718 |
| West of England | 719 |
| South East | 720 |
| South West | 721 |
| Wales | 722 |
| Scotland | 723 |
| Ireland | 724 |
| Channel Islands | 725 |
| Islands | 726 |

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code:

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| London & SE | 731 |
| North East | 732 |
| North West | 733 |
| Yorkshire | 734 |
| East of England | 735 |
| West of England | 736 |
| South East | 737 |
| South West | 738 |
| Wales | 739 |
| Scotland | 740 |
| Ireland | 741 |
| Channel Islands | 742 |
| Islands | 743 |
| London | 744 |
| North East | 745 |
| North West | 746 |
| Yorkshire | 747 |
| East of England | 748 |
| West of England | 749 |
| South East | 750 |
| South West | 751 |
| Wales | 752 |
| Scotland | 753 |
| Ireland | 754 |
| Channel Islands | 755 |
| Islands | 756 |

HOURS OF DARKNESS

| Location | Sun rises | Sun sets |
|------------|-----------|----------|
| London | 6:31 am | 7:36 pm |
| Edinburgh | 6:31 am | 7:36 pm |
| Manchester | 6:31 am | 7:36 pm |
| Penzance | 6:31 am | 7:36 pm |

FORECAST

General: England and Wales will have a dry day with sunny or clear spells. The best of the sunshine is likely in the morning. After a frosty start temperatures will be a little higher than yesterday.

Northern Ireland and most of Scotland should be mainly dry with some sunshine later. The far north of Scotland, however, will be cloudy with some patchy drizzle.

London, Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Moray Firth: dry with sunny or clear spells with the best of the sun in the morning. Winds light and variable. Frosty start, max 10C (50F).

SE England, E Anglia, E England: dry with sunny spells. Winds light or moderate mainly north-easterly. Rather cold, max 7C (45F).

Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, N Ireland: dry, rather cloudy start, bright spells later. Winds light and variable. Milder than recently, max 10C (50F).

NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: rather cloudy with patchy drizzle. Winds moderate southwesterly. Mild, max 9C (48F).

Outlook: mainly dry with sunny spells, becoming milder.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

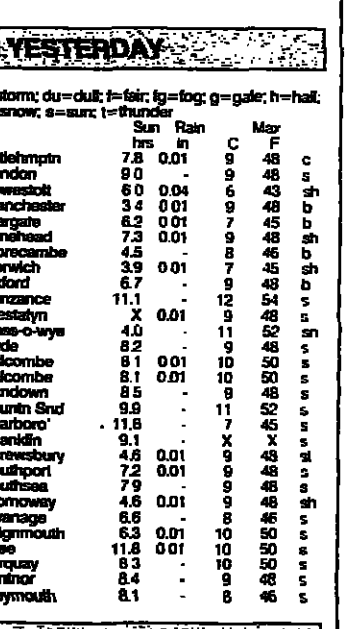
| City | Temp | Wind | Cloud | Humidity | Temp | Wind | Cloud | Humidity |
|------------|------|------|-------|----------|------|------|-------|----------|
| Aberdeen | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Cardiff | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Edinburgh | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| London | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Manchester | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Newcastle | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Nottingham | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Sheffield | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Sunderland | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Swansea | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Torquay | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Weymouth | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |

ABROAD

| City | Temp | Wind | Cloud | Humidity | Temp | Wind | Cloud | Humidity |
|---------------|------|------|-------|----------|------|------|-------|----------|
| Algeria | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 |
| Athens | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 |
| Bombay | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 |
| Buenos Aires | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 |
| Calcutta | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 |
| Cairo | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 |
| Colon | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 |
| Hankow | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 |
| Harbin | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 |
| Hong Kong | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 |
| Kobe | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 |
| London | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 |
| Lyons | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 |
| Manila | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 |
| Medan | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 |
| Osaka | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 |
| Paris | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 |
| Perth | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 |
| Rangoon | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 |
| San Francisco | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 |
| Singapore | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 |
| Sourabaya | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 |
| Tokyo | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 |
| Yokohama | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 | 12 | 54 | 1 | 59 |

NOON TODAY

Changes to chart below from noon: high P will build in situ; low F will drift slowly east while low Q drifts north and fills a little; complex low N will deepen in situ



HIGHEST & LOWEST

| City | High | Low | City | High | Low |
|------------|------|-----|------------|------|-----|
| London | 11.1 | 6.5 | London | 11.1 | 6.5 |
| Edinburgh | 10.5 | 6.1 | Edinburgh | 10.5 | 6.1 |
| Manchester | 10.5 | 6.1 | Manchester | 10.5 | 6.1 |
| Newcastle | 10.5 | 6.1 | Newcastle | 10.5 | 6.1 |
| Nottingham | 10.5 | 6.1 | Nottingham | 10.5 | 6.1 |
| Sheffield | 10.5 | 6.1 | Sheffield | 10.5 | 6.1 |
| Sunderland | 10.5 | 6.1 | Sunderland | 10.5 | 6.1 |
| Swansea | 10.5 | 6.1 | Swansea | 10.5 | 6.1 |
| Torquay | 10.5 | 6.1 | Torquay | 10.5 | 6.1 |
| Weymouth | 10.5 | 6.1 | Weymouth | 10.5 | 6.1 |

NORWAY
Wakes up to Norway with a Short Break - Oslo, the Viking capital city or Stavanger, gateway to the fjord country.

Wakes up to Norway
Wakes up to Norway with a Short Break - Oslo, the Viking capital city or Stavanger, gateway to the fjord country.

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or contact your local travel agent.

SAS
Wakes up to NORWAY

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from the crowd?



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add style
to interiors



Open jinx ends
double hopes of
British champion

TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
Pages 42, 43

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY APRIL 3 1996

Invitation to join the Cliveden set

CLIVEDEN, the hotel group whose prime asset is the high-society country house where so much of the Profumo scandal was played out in the 1960s, yesterday unveiled the prospectus for its £24.7 million flotation (Ross Tieman writes).

Investors are being offered the chance to buy an interest in the former home of the Astor family, about 28 miles west of London, which is now equipped with 37 bedrooms and two restaurants.

The company, headed by the entrepreneurs John Lewis, John Thain and James Crathorne, has also established the Cliveden Club, based at Cliveden, and the Cliveden Town House, a 25-bedroom hotel near Sloane Square in London.

The flotation is designed to raise £7.4 million to finance the purchase of a new hotel and development of existing assets. The company's aim, the prospectus says, is to "develop a group of distinctive hotels based on our high standards of quality and service."



Tea for two: John Lewis, right, chairman of hotel group, and John Thain, managing director, in the grounds of Cliveden House yesterday

Chelsfield wins deal to develop £500m complex

By Jon Ashworth and Patricia Tehan

A £500 million shopping and leisure complex that will create up to 3,000 jobs and transform 37 acres of derelict land on the doorstep of the BBC at White City in London has been approved by planners.

The Hammersmith and Fulham development, one of the most significant in the capital since Brent Cross two decades ago, will create a vast shopping hub within 10 minutes of the West End.

Elliott Bernard, the property developer behind Wentworth Golf Club, and the Merry Hill shopping centre, clinched the development deal late on Monday night, after months of negotiations. Construction is due to begin early next year, and the complex, which will include a multiplex cinema

and other attractions, should be open in time for the millennium.

J Sainsbury, the supermarket group, is the only tenant to sign up so far.

Mr Bernard has been inundated with offers, but was unable to proceed until the deal was signed. He said yesterday that he was "very pleased" to have won clearance for a project that would regenerate a vast swathe of land between the BBC at Shepherd's Bush and the West Way.

Mr Bernard said: "We are very excited about the project. It's very good for West London."

The deal provides a fresh focus for Chelsfield, Mr Bernard's property company, Merry Hill, in Dudley, West

Midlands, caters for 25 million visitors a year. The new project will occupy 620,000 sq ft, provide parking for 4,500 cars, cost more than £200 million to construct, and have a total value of about £500 million, according to Barclays de Zoete Wedd, which advised Mr Bernard during the negotiations.

Chelsfield will retain a majority stake in the project. Fellow members of the White City consortium have yet to be announced, but the site's previous owners included Godfrey Bradman, the name behind the City's Broadgate complex, Scottish Amicable, London Transport, BICC, the property group, and Railtrack. Negotiations also extended to J Sainsbury, which had contracted to sell part of its

holding to Bridehall, the private property company, and to General Accident, which was also in the frame. Talks with potential construction partners are expected to last several months.

Chelsfield's designs on White City date to last September, when the company acquired the 37-acre Vanderbilt Racquet Club in Shepherd's Bush.

The ensuing construction project will be the biggest in the capital since Canary Wharf in London's Docklands, and provide a welcome boost for the embattled UK construction industry. The development is a statement of confidence in the UK High Street, but will be greeted with dismay by retailers in Oxford Street and High Street Ken-

sington, which fall within a 10-minute radius of the new site.

The deal confirms Mr Bernard's reputation as one of the UK's shrewdest property developers. He bought Wentworth Golf Club in Surrey for £18 million in 1988, and within a year had sold a 40 per cent stake to Japanese interests, recouping his costs, and leaving him with a majority stake in a site valued at £80 million. He took financial control of Merry Hill in October 1994.

News of the White City deal emerged as Chelsfield announced pre-tax profits 4 per cent higher, at £10.6 million, in the year to December 31. Earnings per share were 6.3p (5.4p). A final dividend of 1.65p (1.5p) a share makes a total of 2.75p (2.5p) a share for the year.

Snub for foreign holidays

By Marianne Curphey

UP TO four million foreign package holidays for this summer are still unsold. Thomas Cook, the travel agency and wholly owned subsidiary of Westdeutsche Landesbank, said yesterday.

Tour operators have taken between 10 and 15 per cent capacity out of the market in order to avoid having to sell thousands of holidays at reduced prices towards the end of the season. Despite this, consumers are reluctant to commit themselves to holiday plans in advance, and the same number of holidays as in April 1995 remain unsold.

Thomas Cook, which specialises in foreign exchange and travel, said holiday sales for the Easter period were "reasonably good, but not dramatic". The group reported pre-tax profit of £25.2 million for the year to December 31 (£17.1 million).

Moores family reaps £20m dividend

By Sarah Bagnall

THE wealthy Moores family, owner of Littlewoods, is set to receive a £20 million dividend payment in spite of a sharp fall in profits at the pools to home shopping group.

Pre-tax profits fell 16 per cent from £116 million to £97.3 million in the year to December 31 on sales down 6.3 per cent at £23 billion. The decline in profits reflected the adverse impact of the National Lottery, a sharp rise in bad debts in the home shopping division and hefty restructuring charges.

The group is undertaking a £32.1 million restructuring programme, the benefits of which will appear over the next three years. The charge was offset by the receipt of £35.3 million of value-added tax refunds.

Jim Michie, the company's finance director, said: "As a private company, we can afford to take short-term pain in order to get long-term gain."

The group's pools business was badly hit by the National Lottery, and, as a result, the leisure division's sales fell 26 per cent to £631 million and operating profits dropped 9.9 per cent to £23.7 million. Mr Michie said that the sales had settled at about 35 per cent down from pre-lottery levels and as a result pool profits were expected to fall further in the current year.

The impact of the lottery was also felt in home shopping as bad debt levels rose steeply as customers opted to buy lottery tickets rather than pay their Littlewoods bills. Home shopping also suffered from the continuing trend away from traditional agency business to direct sales, a shift that Littlewoods is trying to make with the launch of the *Index Extra* catalogue. The division saw operating profits fall 17.9 per cent to £60.7 million.

Mr Michie said that the bad debt problem was being addressed and that the company was confident that all the group's divisions, except the pools business, would improve their profits in the current year.

BUSINESS TODAY

| STOCK MARKET | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|------------|--|
| FT-SE 100 | 3728.5 | (+10.1) | |
| Yield | 3.96% | | |
| FT-SE All share | 1885.80 | (+5.88) | |
| Nikkei | 21600.08 | (+38.88) | |
| New York | 5641.69 | (+3.97) | |
| Dow Jones | 653.77 | (+0.04) | |
| S&P Composite | | | |
| US RATE | | | |
| Federal Funds | 5 1/4% | (5 1/4%) | |
| Long Bond | 9 1/8% | (9 1/8%) | |
| Yield | 8.84% | (8.84%) | |
| LONDON MONEY | | | |
| 3-month interbank | 6 1/4% | (6 1/4%) | |
| 12-month bill | 10 1/2% | (10 1/2%) | |
| STERLING | | | |
| New York | 1.5245 | (1.5243) | |
| London | | | |
| \$ | 1.5245 | (1.5255) | |
| DM | 2.2594 | (2.2594) | |
| FF | 7.7035 | (7.6980) | |
| Sfr | 1.8192 | (1.8213) | |
| Yen | 163.88 | (163.88) | |
| Index | 63.5 | (63.6) | |
| DOLLAR | | | |
| London | | | |
| DM | 1.4812 | (1.4835) | |
| FF | 5.0076 | (5.0040) | |
| Sfr | 1.1528 | (1.1545) | |
| Yen | 107.49 | (107.56) | |
| \$ Index | 85.9 | (86.0) | |
| Tokyo close Yen 107.50 | | | |
| NORTH SEA OIL | | | |
| Brent 15-day (Jun) | \$18.90 | (\$18.65) | |
| GOLD | | | |
| London close | \$394.75 | (\$394.75) | |
| * denotes midday trading price | | | |

On target

Britain's trouble-prone Trident nuclear missile submarine programme is back on track after the signing by the Government of heads of agreement for the sale and modernisation of Devonport Royal Dockyard in Plymouth. Construction of facilities at Devonport to refit the 16,000 tonne boats will cost about £325 million. That is £100 million more than expected when the contract was provisionally allocated to Devonport after a bitterly fought battle three years ago with the rival Rosyth Royal Dockyard in Fife.

Page 24, Pennington 25

Tarmac down

Tarmac is to concentrate on integrating the businesses it acquired in a £600 million asset swap with Wimpey, the housebuilder, this year. Tarmac reported an 81 per cent drop in profits. Page 25

Rover blames change in accounting for £150m loss

By Alasdair Murray

ROVER, the British carmaker now owned by BMW of Germany, incurred a £150 million loss in 1995. The company insisted the losses stemmed from a change in accounting and that under UK accounting conventions it would have made £91 million profit before interest and tax, a rise of nearly 10 per cent.

Sales revenue increased by 15 per cent to £5.6 billion. Car production rose 4.8 per cent to 501,300, boosted by a 38 per cent increase in sales to non-European markets.

John Towers, chief executive, said: "We have dramatically increased our engineering and marketing programmes, launched three new models and taken on an extra 4,000 people. We can be very pleased with our performance."

BMW, which paid British Aerospace £29 million for

Rover two years ago, increased its investment in the British subsidiary by 30 per cent to more than £500 million in 1995. Rover has four factories in the UK, two in Birmingham, where it has its headquarters, and at Cowley, Oxford, and at Swindon. It



Pischetsrieder: sales hopes

has about 40,000 workers. Bernd Pischetsrieder, chairman of the BMW management board, said: "For 1996 as a whole, we expect an increase over 1995 in production and sales for both BMW and Rover." In 1993, the last year the company was owned by BAe, Rover made a £128 million trading profit, which was reduced to £56 million after exceptional items.

Vauxhall, owned by General Motors of the US, yesterday ended its recent practice of choosing American bosses by appointing Nick Reilly as chairman. Mr Reilly takes over from Charles Golden, who has accepted a US pharmaceutical post. Mr Reilly was previously manufacturing director of Vauxhall's Astra and V6 engine plant at Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, from 1990 to 1993.

GKN signs deal with Germans

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

GKN, builder of Britain's battle-proven Warrior personnel carriers, has signed a collaboration deal with Krauss-Maffei, MaK and Wegmann, the makers of Germany's Leopard tank.

The agreement is apparently seen as the prelude to creation of a full-blown Anglo-German joint venture armoured vehicle company. Each company would inject its armoured vehicle interests. GKN alone employs 700 people in its armoured vehicle division, generating annual sales of some £250 million.

The trigger for the link-up was Britain's decision, announced two weeks ago, to join France and Germany in a European Arms Procurement Agency. The first common project is development of a lightly armoured "battlefield tank", known as MRAPV.

The GKN consortium will

bid against Vickers, builder of the Challenger 2 tank, teamed with Thyssen-Henschel of Germany, for the £4 billion contract to supply 8,200 light armoured vehicles to Britain, Germany and France. The winner is expected to team with Giat, the French state armoured vehicle company, to develop and build the vehicles.

Peter Venton, GKN Defence chief executive, said the agreement came "at the dawn of a new era of collaboration in the European defence industry".

GKN and MaK, owned by Rheinmetall, are partners in the Terrier programme to build a new combat engineering tractor for the British Army. Krauss Maffei is owned by Mannesmann, the industrial group, while Wegmann has interests from tank turrets to railway equipment.

Pennington, page 25

Getty buys Hulton Deutsch Collection

By Jon Ashworth

THE Getty family, long-associated with oil and philanthropy, is branching out, with the purchase of one of the world's most famous photographic portfolios. The acquisition of The Hulton Deutsch Collection brings the Gettys into direct competition with Bill Gates, the computer billionaire, who has similar designs on the world of visual media.

Mr Gates, founder of Microsoft, inherited a similar array of famous

images when he bought The Bettmann Archive, based in New York, for an undisclosed sum last October. He promptly announced plans to adapt historic snapshots ranging from the Hindenburg disaster to Marilyn Monroe's billowing skirt to a "pay-per-view" system for home computers. The Gettys hope to do the same for the world of commerce, offering digitised images down the line to advertising agencies and publishers. Hulton Deutsch, based in west London, draws on works by photographers such as

Alfred Eisenstadt and Robert Capa, and ranks with Bettmann as the world's most important privately owned source of historical imagery.

Hulton Deutsch, owned for 30 years by the BBC, has gone to Getty Communications, which bought Tony Stone Images, one of the world's top five non-news photo libraries, in March 1995. The company is co-chaired by Mark Getty, whose father, J. Paul Getty II, put up cash to save Canova's *The Three Graces* for Britain.

The deal is the latest plank in an

ambitious expansion plan by Mr Getty who, with Jonathan Klein, his co-chairman, formerly worked at Hambros Bank. Mr Getty said: "We are committed to building a major international business as providers of high quality visual content. The Hulton will enhance the group's ability to satisfy the growing demand for imagery which is being accelerated by developments in global communications." Funding is provided by Getty family interests, Lord Rothschild's RIT Capital Partners, and the Hambros Group.

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TSB34 PG2

Anger as London's CrossRail project is shelved

By Jonathan Prynn
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE Government was yesterday accused of killing off the £2.6 billion CrossRail project after Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, announced that plans to seek Parliamentary approval for the scheme this year have been shelved.

Furious business chiefs said London's future as a world-class city was being threatened by the Government's refusal to commit sufficient funds to upgrading public transport links.

CrossRail was seen as a crucial new artery for London that would bring Heathrow within 35 minutes of the City and create 20,000 new long-term jobs. It involved the construction of a four-mile tunnel under central London, linking Liverpool Street and Paddington stations.

In a written Commons answer Sir George said the Government was handing over sole responsibility for promoting the project to Railtrack, which is being privatised next month. The company previously shared responsibility for CrossRail with British Rail and London Transport.

The Transport Secretary said he would ask Bob Horton to examine the viability of the scheme after the flotation but it will be left to Railtrack to make the decision on whether it should go ahead.

Railtrack sources said there was no chance of CrossRail making any further progress without a public sector commitment of around £1.2 billion to build it as a joint venture.

Sir George also said the project, which had the strong support of Government as recently as 1994, has now been shunted to the back of a queue of major infrastructure schemes in London and the south east. It will not start before 2003 at the earliest, after the completion of the Jubilee Line Extension, Thameslink 2000 and the Channel Tunnel rail link, and will take five years.

Sir George said: "I have therefore asked the chairman of London Transport, Railtrack and British Rail not to proceed for the time being with an application under the Transport and Works Act for powers to build CrossRail." Glenda Jackson, Labour's spokeswoman for transport in London said: "This is effectively the end for CrossRail and £150 million of taxpayers' money has been thrown away."



Michael Bennett, chairman of Oasis, sees signs of a pick-up in customer confidence after sales soared in the first nine weeks of the year

Agreement reached on sale of Devonport yard

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

BRITAIN'S trouble-prone Trident nuclear missile submarine programme is back on track after the signing by the Government of heads of agreement for the sale and modernisation of Devonport Royal Dockyard in Plymouth.

Construction of facilities at Devonport to refit the 16,000-tonne boats will cost about £325 million. That is £100 million more than expected when the contract was provisionally allocated to Devonport after a bitterly fought battle three years ago with the rival Rosyth Royal Dockyard in Fife.

Industry sources blame changes in Ministry of Defence requirements for the cost escalation together with the

higher than expected level of risk transferred to the dock's buyer, Devonport Management Ltd (DML), James Arbuthnot, Defence Procurement Minister, said that because of the protracted negotiations "the contractor has accepted to bear an unprecedented proportion of the risk".

In an effort to improve management of the Trident support programme, the MoD has insisted that Brown & Root, the US contractor, assume management control of DML. The company, hitherto an equal partner with Weir Group, the Scottish engineer, and BICC, the cables company, will increase its holding in DML to 51 per cent.

Brown & Root is already a

partner in Hunting Brae, which manages the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston and Burgh Heath where Britain's nuclear bombs are made.

New facilities are needed for the Trident ballistic missile submarines because they are far larger than the atomic-powered hunter-killer boats already in service. DML has undertaken to modify one of its largest docks and construct a nuclear fuel handling building.

The MoD insisted on improved management after the National Audit Office criticised cost overruns on MoD programmes at the Faslane Trident operating bases.

Brown & Root will be hard pressed to complete the

Devonport facilities in time to refit the first Trident, HMS Vanguard, early in the next century. The three boats will each require a £150 million to £200 million overhaul every ten to 12 years. Yesterday's announcement appears to secure the jobs of 3,600 permanent staff at Devonport.

Negotiations for the sale of the yards were complicated because the only bidders were the companies that have been running them for the past nine years.

Agreement on the sale of Rosyth to Babcock Rosyth Defence, a subsidiary of Babcock International Group, is also close.

Pennington, page 25

More stop at busy Oasis

MICHAEL BENNETT, the chairman of Oasis, the clothing retailer, said yesterday he was seeing signs of a pick-up in customer confidence (Sarah Bagnall writes). Sales in the first nine weeks of the year leapt 41 per cent. Stripping out the benefits of new store openings, sales rose 19 per cent.

Mr Bennett said: "We have detected a slightly more relaxed atmosphere. But whatever the statistics say, it all comes down to how secure people feel in the workplace."

Oasis was revealing its first set of full-year figures since it floated last June. Pre-tax profit jumped 21.5 per cent to £11.2 million before flotation expenses of £1.3 million. Sales rose 29 per cent to £60.9 million.

The group is paying a 3.33p final dividend. There was no interim payment.

Leaseholders receive Housing Bill boost

By Sara McConnell

LONG leaseholders will have the right to control the management of their own property, freeing themselves from aggressive or incompetent landlords, under a new clause introduced into the Housing Bill by Labour yesterday.

David Ashby, the Shadow Housing Minister, hailed the votes as an "historic victory for leaseholders" and said they "marked an important stage in the long campaign against the injustices of the leasehold system".

added their votes to Labour's to force through two more clauses which are designed to allow a greater number of leaseholders to exercise the right to buy the freehold of their property.

Nick Raynsford, the Shadow Housing Minister, hailed the votes as an "historic victory for leaseholders" and said they "marked an important stage in the long campaign against the injustices of the leasehold system".

Record year at Waterford

WATERFORD Wedgwood, maker of fine cut crystal and bone china, yesterday declared itself fully recovered from the problems of the early 1990s and set out its plans to double in size by the end of the decade.

The company reported record pre-tax profits for 1995 of £128.1 million, a 24 per cent improvement on 1994. Waterford Wedgwood is paying a final dividend of 0.95p a share, increasing the total 50 per cent to 1.2p.

Independent review body for accountants

By Robert Bruce

THE accountancy profession is to set up an independent review body to act as a catalyst for implementing change in the profession.

The new body, which it is hoped will be in place by 1998, is likely to be called the Accountants Regulatory Review Body. It will monitor how regulations and discipline work within the profession.

It is intended to be entirely independent of the profession,

consist of "people of standing and strong independent minds, and be free to comment on, and review, the profession's activities".

This is the first time for decades that a serious effort at raising the reputation of the profession has been agreed by all six accountancy bodies.

The body would be able "to review all aspects of the profession's public interest activities" and would report from time to time on specific issues.

Zotefoams setback

A COMMUNICATIONS breakdown between Zotefoams and its largest customer yesterday prompted the foam maker to issue a profits warning, bringing an end to the promising start it had made to life as a public company. Zotefoams shares tumbled 60p to 279p. Zotefoams belatedly discovered that Wrebbitt, a Canadian toy company, had accumulated large stocks of the foam that it uses in its popular three-dimensional jigsaw. Wrebbitt's de-stocking is expected to hold back Zotefoams' sales for the first half of this year.

Official reserves fall

THE overall level of Britain's official reserves fell \$151 million in March, bringing the reserves at the end of March to \$44.80 billion, compared with \$44.95 billion at the end of February. The underlying change in the reserves was a fall of \$147 million. The Treasury said that there were repayments of borrowing under the Exchange Cover Scheme of \$6 million. The March tender of UK ECU Treasury bills amounted to \$1.26 billion and maturing UK ECU Treasury Bills also totalled \$1.26 billion.

Gas rules approval close

THE European Commission proposes to approve British Gas's network rules on gas transportation and storage. The rules were notified to the Commission for clearance by TransCo, the division of British Gas which operates a gas transportation network in Britain. TransCo established the rules after consultation with gas shippers and the British Office of Gas Supply, the Commission said. The Commission gave third parties a month to comment on the issue, but said it intended to "take a favourable position" on the accord.

Granada in TV revamp

GRANADA, the media and hotels group that paid £3.9 billion for Forte in January, yesterday announced a restructuring that will put all of its television interests into one division. Duncan Lewis, former chief executive of Mercury Communications, is to become chief executive of Granada Media, reporting to Charles Allen, Granada's chief executive. Granada Media will consist of Granada Television, LWT, 20 per cent of Independent Television News, 11 per cent of BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster, and Laser, the airtime sales house, among other interests.

TOURIST RATES

| | Bank Buys | Bank Sells |
|-----------------|-----------|------------|
| Australia \$ | 2.04 | 1.88 |
| Austria Sch | 16.90 | 15.40 |
| Belgium Fr | 40.42 | 45.12 |
| Canada \$ | 2.172 | 2.012 |
| Cyprus Cyp£ | 0.751 | 0.696 |
| Denmark Kr | 9.34 | 8.54 |
| Finland Mk | 7.61 | 6.86 |
| France Fr | 8.11 | 7.46 |
| Germany Dm | 2.41 | 2.29 |
| Greece Dr | 368.00 | 364.00 |
| Hong Kong \$ | 12.43 | 11.43 |
| Ireland P | 1.02 | 0.94 |
| Israel Shk | 5.1400 | 4.4900 |
| Italy Lit | 2498.00 | 2341.00 |
| Japan Yen | 176.00 | 160.00 |
| Malta | 0.591 | 0.538 |
| Netherlands Gld | 2.662 | 2.432 |
| New Zealand \$ | 2.38 | 2.16 |
| Norway Kr | 10.39 | 9.59 |
| Portugal Esc | 244.50 | 228.00 |
| S Africa Rd | 6.82 | 5.82 |
| Spain Ptas | 167.00 | 184.00 |
| Sweden Kr | 10.76 | 9.98 |
| Switzerland Fr | 1.95 | 1.77 |
| Turkey Lira | 11257 | 10457 |
| USA \$ | 1.892 | 1.892 |

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Row simmers over job and trade links

FROM PHILIP BASSETT IN LILLE



Waldegrave: back-door route

BRITAIN and America last night clashed over linking minimum employment standards and international trade as the world's leading industrial nations agreed a new strategy aimed at combating unemployment at the Group of Seven conference on jobs.

Britain is strongly opposed to any "social clause" link between trade and labour standards, while America wants trade ministers to bring forward proposals on linking trade and jobs at a conference this year in Singapore of the World Trade Organisation, the successor to Gatt.

Robert Reich, the US Labour Secretary, said yesterday that the WTO was the "proper forum" for the issue to be considered, but William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the

Treasury, said: "We are not convinced that using the WTO in this way would not be a route for protectionism by the back door."

The simmering row over trade and jobs was brought into the open yesterday by Pádraig Flynn, the Social Affairs and Employment Commissioner, when he called for a new social clause. Britain said that its position on the WTO was supported by Germany, Canada and Japan, while France and Italy backed America.

The G7 summit broadly agreed a new international strategy for jobs based on:

- Creating the conditions for sustainable growth and strong job creation, including cutting public deficits.
- Fostering new jobs in the future,

including promoting technology and focusing on the long-term through investment in training.

□ Preventing social exclusion, including pursuing policies that promote security of employability.

Much of the G7's conclusions reflect an emphasis on macroeconomic policies, with structural labour market reforms following. Gillian Shephard, Education and Employment Secretary, said of the conference: "It has been valuable. It has endorsed our approach."

The G7 communiqué said: "Strong growth will undoubtedly help to reduce unemployment. But much will still remain to be done to address the structural problems which impede job creation and income growth."

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□ Lang must not intervene in BT/C&W □ In defence of splitting customer and supplier □ Shock sacking at the Woolwich

Hanging on the colonial line

IT SEEMS bizarre that a business whose main asset is in Hong Kong might be regarded as of such vital strategic importance to these isles that the Government should step in to protect it from foreign ownership. But this is what is being whispered by not entirely disinterested sources close to BT and Cable and Wireless.

This is the biggest game in town, and the two can expect to make combined profits of £4 billion if a marriage goes ahead, according to research yesterday from NatWest Securities. But it is a long way from being a done deal, and the way is still open for a foreign business to come in before vows are taken.

BT, although a monolith on its home turf, is rather a small player on the world stage, about equal to one of the American "Baby Bells", two of which have just announced a merger. A reverse acquisition by C&W would not only provide the latter with some managers to replace the two top men recently defenestrated, it would give BT access to a stream of earnings, in the form of HongKong Telecom, beyond the reach of an increasingly difficult UK regulator.

The market, therefore, is being massaged towards the belief that nothing can stand in the way of a match. A whisper on Friday that Jan Lang at the Department of

Trade and Industry had decided to wave it through had to be denied by the DTI on Monday.

Now the rumour is that Lang is prepared to use C&W's outdated golden share arrangement, which gives the Government control, to block a foreign buyer, of which there is no shortage of candidates. AT&T may now be less interested, but other Baby Bells will be keen. Veba of Germany has a long 10 per cent of C&W, which is at least an expression of intent.

For the Government to foil such ambitions, if expressed as a firm bid, would be unacceptable on three grounds. First, it would be grotesquely inconsistent, coming from an administration that has allowed chunks of the water and electricity industry to go to overseas buyers, has sold bits of British Rail to the Japanese, has even been happy to allow foreign capital into our defence industry — see Devonport, in this column. The only indigenous bits of C&W, Mercury and One-to-One worth together £2.5 billion, would have to be sold, probably to overseas buyers. If BT gains control, Second, it would deprive

shareholders of any premium another bidder is prepared to pay, a curious policy for a Government supposedly committed to the principles of the free market and privatisation — and one that has used the threat of foreign buyers, as with PowerGen and more recently British Energy, to help public sales go with a swing. Third, it would send a disastrous message to overseas capital considering investing in Britain.

The betting is that Lang is embarrassed by some of the market rumours and inclined to follow his free market sympathies. Indeed he should.

Game of monopoly good for taxpayer

FEW public sector bodies can match the sheer incompetence of the Ministry of Defence in the management of project risk. The growing complexity of weapons systems in recent decades has out-paced the training and talent of the MoD's military officials and civil servants alike.

As a result, programme after

PENNINGTON



programme has encountered delays and cost over-runs. The Trident ballistic missile submarine programme has only one highlight: the success of its private sector contractor, VSEL, in completing the boats on time and to budget. Procurement of the support services has been a shameful shambles.

Agreement on sale and modernisation of the Devonport Royal Dockyard, where the boats will be refitted, is a welcome step towards transferring the risk on this project, at least, to the private sector. Companies can make mistakes too — witness Eurotunnel. But Brown & Root, now assuming responsibility, has a good record in managing complex work.

The main significance is the long-overdue separation between customer and supplier. The need for such a separation in arms procurement, learned at such cost, has even been acknowledged in France, where the state-owned shipbuilder, DCN, is to be reduced to a supplier role.

That augurs well for operation of the new European Arms Agency, set up by France, Germany and Britain to win better value for taxpayers. By combining the needs of three countries in a single order, the Agency hopes to win economies of scale in manufacture and lower support costs in combined military operations.

Now GKN has teamed with three German companies to bid for the work. If they win, they will aim to create a single joint venture armoured vehicle company. Will there room for a competitor? Perhaps. But as arms industry rationalisation accelerates, few big programmes attract more than two bidders anyway. As monopolistic customers, defence ministries have enormous clout over their suppliers.

Used to good effect, that should win better value for the taxpayer, and prevent a re-run of the Trident disaster.

Here's to you, Mr Robinson

JUST what occasioned the abrupt fall from greatness of Peter Robinson at the Woolwich, the building society he had scaled to the top of, will for now have to remain a matter for him, his lawyers and his conscience. But some fairly lurid rumours are already doing the rounds of what is still a tight-knit industry, and experience says they will eventually leak.

What is certain is that there will be few tears shed among the building society's workforce for a chief executive nicknamed "The Hatchetman" for his willingness to do whatever was necessary to bring the society to the stock market next year. There does not appear to have been much affection for Mr Robinson in the boardroom either.

The alleged behaviour that led to his dramatic sacking started

some way into his term of office, it seems. This itself only began in January. The supposition must be that what looks like a case of *folie de grandeur* was turned up almost immediately by one of those interminable and nit-picking audits familiar to any executive who has jumped through the various hoops that lead to a stock market debut. In this case this process might even be justified, for once. The non-executives, too, have justified their place by their swiftness to take the necessary action.

As a result, the flotation will go through unimpeded, even if there will be pressure to find a new chief executive as fast as possible. It is to be hoped the list of candidates will be taken from banking or even industry as a whole, rather than what is left of the building society movement.

Debt to society

ACCORDING to Tony Bonner, who chairs the ineptly renamed CBI Small and Medium Enterprise Council, the search for the very worst bill-payers in the public sector has come up with two predictable but embarrassing names: the Serious Fraud Office and the Office of the National Lottery. The former takes ages to do anything. The latter presumably also pays a few random bills by return.

Tarmac hit by slide in housebuilding profits

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

TARMAC said yesterday it would concentrate on integrating the businesses it acquired in a £600 million asset swap with Wimpey, the housebuilder, this year, after reporting a 81 per cent drop in full-year profits to December 31 of £20.3 million.

But shares in the construction and minerals company closed up 8.5p at 119p after Neville Simms, chief executive, insisted that the asset swap would not dilute profits this year. The company suggested that savings made from the integration of the minerals and construction businesses

acquired in the asset swap would amount to about £20 million.

Mr Simms was also cautiously optimistic about the company's outlook, although he admitted that recovery could be slow this year.

He said: "The underlying results suggest that the core businesses are moving in the right direction. We have got the strategy right and will spend this year consolidating."

The company blamed the decline on a fall in profits from its housebuilding division, which it has divested to

Wimpey, and £77 million in exceptional charges, which include a £49 million writedown after the £65 million sale of Tarmac Brick and a £30 million contingency charge relating to a contract dispute with Elm Oil.

Operating profits on underlying businesses increased 28 per cent to £96 million, while overall turnover was flat at £2.5 billion. The heavy building materials businesses performed strongly with profits in the quarry products division rising by about a third to £63 million, while profits increased 30 per cent to £14.6

million in the building materials division. Tarmac America also increased profits 82 per cent to £15.3 million.

But the construction division suffered a 37 per cent fall in profits to £8.2 million. A 40 per cent decline in margins caused profits in the housing division to fall 38 per cent to £40.1 million. Mr Simms said that the construction order book was up about 5 per cent, at £1.5 billion.

The total dividend was unchanged at 5.5p, with a final dividend of 2.5p (2.5p).

Temps, page 26

Head of Liberty resigns

LIBERTY, the stores and fabrics group, has parted company with Patrick Austen, its chief executive (Sarah Bagnall writes). Mr Austen, 52, resigned last week. Denis Cassidy, chairman, said Mr Austen, who was on a three-year rolling contract, would receive compensation. He was paid £160,000 basic salary. Total remuneration was £192,000.

Liberty profits collapsed from £7.2 million in 1991 to a newly forecast £2.1 million in the year to January 27, (£3.6 million last time). Mr Austen has been replaced by Ian Thomson, a former executive director of Sears.

Highland suffers over drop in whisky sales

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

HIGHLAND Distilleries, the whisky company, disclosed a 6 per cent fall in first-half profits to £22.2 million yesterday, but said that the global whisky market was showing signs of recovery.

Highland blamed a drop in whisky sales combined with higher interest costs and a lower contribution from associated undertakings for the fall in profits. The UK market declined 6 per cent.

But the company said that sales were ahead in the second half, while prices had been firming up. Highland, in common with other

whisky producers, recently raised the price on its core brand, Famous Grouse, by 2.5 per cent.

Overall turnover dropped 4 per cent to £101.8 million. The Famous Grouse brand maintained its market share at 13 per cent in the UK, in spite of a 14 per cent fall in sales, while exports rose 6 per cent.

Highland said that it expected to make a 13 per cent increase in spending on marketing over the year to boost the market share of Famous Grouse.

The company said that the launch of new brands, including Gloags gin and Black Bottle whisky, had been prom-

ising. Highland also announced the launch of Famous Grouse Gold Reserve, a 12-year-old whisky, to compete in the premium market.

The single malt division performed strongly, with sales rising 17 per cent, while the malt distilling division also increased sales by 31 per cent.

However, contributions from associates declined 12 per cent to £5.8 million as profits at Robertson and Baxter, the whisky producer, dropped 6 per cent to £31.2 million.

Shares in the company rose 6p to 352p. An interim dividend of 2p (1.9p) is payable on June 3.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Ties and teams at Liberty

IAN THOMSON had a difficult start to his first week in his new job as chief executive at Liberty. Monday was lengthy board meetings and getting his bearings in the rabbit warren, then he went home to Richmond, his favourite football team, had been thrashed by Celtic 5-0. Tuesday he came in wearing a "dowdy" tie, so had to be pulled aside and fitted with a Liberty's number.

Now chairman Denis Cassidy has made a wager with him that his team at Newcastle will beat Liverpool today. "I've got better taste in football teams and ties," boasts Cassidy.

Humfrey's about

POLO-PLAYING Hugh Humfrey charges in as managing director of Fidelity Brokerage's new clearing business, which is based in London, this week.

Humfrey, 40, who has moved from Fidelity's Investment Adviser Group in Surrey, is also warning up for the start of the polo season in a couple of weeks.

This is Humfrey's first season as a member of the Guards Polo Club, so he is making the most of the light evenings, exercising his four ponies and working on Fidelity's president. "I keep making noises to the boss that sponsoring polo would be good for the company's image."



Humfrey, warning up

THE Salvation Army, once the victim of a £56 million fraud, is banding with the Midland Bank to issue its first cashcard. Customers of the Reliance Bank, wholly owned by the Salvation Army since 1990, will be able to make withdrawals from any of Midland Bank's nationwide network of more than 2,300 cash machines.

All aboard

TOP business executives from across the world are working round the clock to ensure they make it first over the winning line at the inaugural Oxford versus Cambridge veterans boat race on Thursday. Andy Hall, the 45-year-old Oxonian and president of PhilBro, has flown over from the States for the big race. He has been on a strict diet and training programme for several months, and has been practising with the team in Putney for a couple of hours every day. Hall is perfecting his stroke alongside serial rower Boris Rankov, and 42-year-old Stephen Plunkett, deputy managing director of Yamaichi International and chums from the services. Tonight it's the "psych-up pasta party", where, Hall says, "we have to keep the army types in tone".

Gone to the dogs

A COUP for Windsor, the Lloyd's broker, after a newspaper reported on April Fool's Day that the Queen had taken her first steps into cyberspace with her own web site on the Internet. Unknowingly, the article quoted the insurance company's own e-mail address, and now its sports brokers are waiting with bated breath to give insurance quotes for professional dog racing.

MORAG PRESTON



Signboard jungle: house agents report more viewings, more instructions and offers nearer to the asking price, but previous recoveries have petered out

Figures start to add up for a housing market recovery

Sara McConnell says the elements are in place, only the confidence is needed

This weekend the newspapers will be full of property advertisements showing young couples holding hands outside their dream homes. Estate agents and developers will not want to miss any chance of tempting potential housebuyers out of hibernation over the long Easter weekend, traditionally a high point of the buying season.

Their chances of success look better than at almost any time since the housing market started to plunge, if the figures can be believed. The latest hopeful sign of rising demand came earlier this week with the announcement from the Halifax, the largest lender, that prices had risen by 1.2 per cent between February and March and by 1.7 per cent year on year. The monthly rise is significantly higher than the 0.9 per cent recorded at the end of February. But more important, the monthly rise is the eighth in succession, adding weight to claims that there really is an upswing and the rises are not just a flash in the statistical pan.

The Nationwide's monthly house price index, published at the end of last week, showed no change between February and March but, according to the society, this obscures more optimistic trends. Philip Williamson, Nationwide's corporate development director, said: "We continue to believe that a sustained recovery in the market is underway although this may be moderate compared with past experience."

David Kern, NatWest's chief economist, added his voice to the chorus of cautious optimism. "Despite the lacklustre performance of the housing market in 1995, there is already tentative evidence to support the view that the outlook for 1996 is more favourable," he said. The prospect of rising real incomes, as employment starts to rise, lower taxes, cheap mortgage money and windfall gains for building society members getting merger payoffs should all help to make borrowers feel more optimistic, he believes.

Ian Shepherdson, housing analyst at HSBC, says the seeds of recovery were sown last summer when Chancellor Kenneth Clarke made it clear he would not raise interest rates. Some of the borrowers who had flinched at the prospect of taking on a big debt if interest rates were about to rise were reassured and decided to take advantage of cheap mortgage deals. This is now filtering through into rising

prices. Many people who have hesitated up until now will decide to take the plunge when they see prices rising, believing the market has hit rock bottom and they will gain nothing by waiting. Previously, buyers were hanging back hoping for more price falls.

Mr Shepherdson said: "This is a turning point in the housing market. This is the eighth increase in prices and the size of the increase is rising. The rate of recovery is accelerating". He added that the signs were there that prices would rise by 2.3 per cent in the first three months of this year alone, more than the 2 per cent forecast for the whole year by the Halifax and NatWest. Mr Shepherdson, a "bull" on the housing market, now predicts prices will rise by 6 per cent over the year, against his turn of the year prediction of 5 per cent.

But how accurate will these predictions turn out to be? This Easter at least, there is agreement among analysts that there have been several months of sustained recovery, albeit from a very low base, as the Nationwide points out. Anecdotal, estate agents in the high street front line report more viewings, more instructions and offers nearer to the asking price, although these vary substantially from area to area and between districts in the same area. There is general

agreement that mortgage money is cheaper than at any time in the past 30 years, particularly because of all the special discounts and deals.

The Inland Revenue has helped over the past few weeks by making clear that cashbacks offered by lenders as an inducement to borrow will not be taxable. This gives borrowers a tax-free lump sum in some cases of several thousand pounds. Tax breaks announced in the last Budget will reach pay packets in May, and are expected to give a boost to the housing market. Base rates have been falling since 1991, pushing down mortgage rates. The Government says a low-interest, low-inflation economy is the best help the housing market could have.

All these added together should fuel a housing market recovery. But this is by no means certain, as analysts have learnt to their cost during the housing slump and would now be the first to admit. The Halifax for one came badly unstuck in 1994 when it predicted that prices would rise by 5 per cent over the year, then saw the market slump as higher taxes hit paypackets and the price of fixed-rate mortgages rose. This year it is playing a much more cautious game, committing itself only to reviewing its 2 per cent prediction if "the pattern of recent months is sustained". The Nationwide obviously does not

want to have to eat its words if the market falls back, either. It senses a "strengthening of activity" compared with late 1995, but adds: "It needs to be emphasised that this is from an historically low base and that gains are far from spectacular". The main difficulty with analysing the housing market is that prospective buyers and sellers do not act logically. House buying is an emotional process, which is why the "feel-good" factor is so important. They may be told unemployment is falling, the mortgage market is one big bargain basement, prices are rising so they had better get in quickly. But if they personally are struggling or if they see other people struggling, they will not believe it.

The scars of negative equity and repossession run very deep. Many borrowers in difficulties feel betrayed by a government that they believe encouraged them into home ownership only to abandon them when the going got tough. According to the Council of Mortgage Lenders, nearly 1,000 people a week had their homes repossessed last year.

No one knows how many people are trapped in negative equity with homes worth less than the value of their mortgage but most estimates put it at about one million. As prices rise, more people will come out of negative equity but some will still find themselves in neutral equity, where they have no spare equity to put down as a deposit on a new home or cover moving costs. As Mr Shepherdson said: "The house price indices don't tell you about the homes which aren't saleable."

Those who have not bought, hesitate to take the plunge, fearing they could find themselves in a similar position if politics, economics or family situation turn against them. Even those who have equity in their homes find it difficult to accept a lower price when they sell than what they paid for it in the first place.

As one Birmingham estate agent said: "We still have people being silly about prices". Sellers may well pay less for the property they are moving to. But as a nation conditioned to think for decades in terms of continually rising prices, Britons react to lower offers almost as a personal insult.

It has taken homeowners a long time to get used to slump after the spectacular boom of the 1980s. It could take them equally long to believe in a sustained recovery.



Rooms to view: Easter weekend is the traditional start of housebuying season

Christine Buckley on customer compensation

Water firms under pressure

Ian Byatt, the water regulator, will spend his Easter break putting the finishing touches to proposals for companies that cut supplies to customers to pay proper compensation. Those who have been banned from using hosepipes for three of the past five years, the seven million customers who had water use curbed under drought orders, and those who faced the threat of rota cuts and standpipes will be glad to hear it.

Under present arrangements, such people are not entitled to anything. Statutory inconvenience payments are made only for supply interruptions exceeding 24 hours.

Ofwat is expected to press the Environment Department and the Welsh Office, which are responsible for changes to guaranteed standards, for a greater range of payments to cover matters such as hosepipe bans and low water pressure.

The overhaul comes after an Ofwat inquiry into last summer's drought. With reservoir levels currently low for the time of year, it seems likely that new compensation rights will be heavily taken up.

The penalties on poor performing companies will be accompanied by tougher im-

plementation of the guaranteed standards. In particular, Mr Byatt indicated earlier this year that he would get tough on companies that claim severe weather prevented them meeting standards. Companies can use this defence, but the final decision

lies with the regulator if a customer complains. Ofwat signalled its stricter attitude after burst pipes left hundreds of thousands of people in the North East without water over Christmas and into the new year.

Union leaders blamed job cuts for tardy repairs. Earlier this month, the electricity regulator took similar action when he ruled against Midlands Electricity's "severe weather" excuse in two sample complaints from customers. Stephen Littlechild also said the company had insufficient engineers to tackle repairs speedily. His ruling was

welcomed by consumers' groups and electricity consumers' committees are now calling for compensation payments for power cuts of less than 24 hours. No immediate change is expected to standards operated by the electricity industry. However,

a review of compensation issues is likely before the introduction of competition in household electricity in 1998. Then new entrants to electricity supply may find standards beefed up and widened.

Water and electricity companies have to conform to ten guaranteed standards, while

When Mr Byatt makes his case to Government it is expected that he will also try to lift payment levels. The one-day loss compensation rate of £10 for water compares poorly with £40 for electricity and £20 for gas. Such a move has been vigorous-

ly sought by consumers' groups. The Consumers Association believes there should be uniformity of payment across the utilities.

Consumers' campaigns to Ofwat before its submissions to the Government have been strengthened by the public outcry over water management last year. But smaller water companies are also fighting their corner hard, arguing that rigorous compensation demands coupled with a major supply problem could cripple cash resources. Electricity firms have voiced similar concerns.

Privately, many believe there will be some resistance to large-scale compensation over extremes of weather and that, in some cases, the blame may be passed down a chain. For example, a company needing to execute repairs in snow-bound areas may press local authorities for more assistance in clearing routes.

Ofwat's move on compensation is likely to have a knock-on effect on other utilities and increase pressure on companies to provide goodwill payments. Increasingly, companies are realising the PR value of paying before a gun is put to their heads.



Byatt: tougher stance



Thoughts of a Japanese civil servant

What will be the fastest growing mature economy this year? Not the US, according to at least the new HSBC world forecast: indeed, reports of a US revival may be premature. Not tearaway Britain, now slowed to a sticky crawl, though we might still make it in 1997. Still less, the EMU-haunted core EU economies. It is, as you will have guessed from the headline, Japan. Home demand there is at last responding to what may prove the last great exercise in Keynesian reflation this century. HSBC forecasts 2.4 per cent growth this year and 3 per cent next; modest for Japan, but still well above the OECD average.

This is a consensus forecast, and may indeed seem disappointingly tame to the British fund managers who have been banking on a great Nikkei recovery. They have one thing in common with HSBC, though: both assume that Japan will persist in the great yen-printing exercise

"Despite the rosy forecasts" Kubota wrote in a wake-up call on January 15, "1996 seems to be a year when tough decisions will have to be made on important issues with long-term implications." What worries him most, it seems clear, is debt. He points out that the official borrowing requirement of 4.2 per cent of GDP is well outside the Maastricht guidelines — a gross understatement, incidentally, if spending from Post Office savings is added — and it offends Kubota as much as it would a Eurocrat. "There would be clear recognition that we have to live within our means. All items of expenditure need to be scrutinised further." So if MoF has its way with the politicians, Japan may join the rest of the developed world in fiscal rectitude — with the kind of results we have seen in Europe?

That depends on yen-printing; but again Kubota sounds uneasy. Is it sustainable? "A decision is required on whether we are to continue with the present seemingly too low interest rate policy or not." The Orientally tactful

Despite the rosy forecasts, 1996 seems to be a year when tough decisions will have to be made

"seemingly too low" sounds to me, from a man in his position, something like a scream. But is a retreat impossible because of the dangers of a strong yen? Not according to Kubota. A month later he is drawing attention to the rapidly declining Japanese trade surplus — indeed, trumpeting it. He forecasts that the surplus, down 19.5 per cent in 1995, will decline still faster as Japan moves to the head of the OECD growth tables, and says that it is high time that international negotiators and investors took some notice.

"It may be wrong to expect an appreciation of the yen because of the surplus... there is no legitimate reason to expand domestic demand for balance of payments reasons... and there might be a need for a conscious Japanese effort to export long-term funds." In short, we don't need a new bubble, we do need foreign assets, and if you send money to inflate our market and our currency, we may send it back with interest.

Unofficial, perhaps. Interesting, certainly.

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the regulations of the London Stock Exchange Limited ("the London Stock Exchange"). Application has been made to the London Stock Exchange for the ordinary shares of Cliveden PLC to be issued and to be included in the Official List. It is emphasised that this advertisement does not constitute an offer or invitation to any person to subscribe for or to purchase securities. It is expected that dealings in the ordinary shares of 40p each will commence on Thursday 11 April 1996.



CLIVEDEN PLC

(Incorporated and Registered in England under the Companies Act 1948)
(Registered no. 776183)

PLACING BY
BEESON GREGORY LIMITED

of
17,581,885 ordinary shares of 40p each
at a price of 75p per share payable in full on acceptance

Share capital immediately following Admission

| Amount | Number | Amount | Number |
|-------------|------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| £13,000,000 | 75,000,000 | £13,516,226 | 33,790,566 |
| | | ordinary shares of 40p each | |

The principal activities of Cliveden PLC and its subsidiaries are owning, developing and managing luxury hotels and clubs.

Copies of the Prospectus relating to Cliveden PLC may be obtained during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) from the Company Announcements Office of the London Stock Exchange, Capel Court entrance, off Bartholomew Lane, London EC2B 6DB (for collection only) from the date of this notice up to and including Thursday 4 April 1996 and from the date of this notice up to and including Tuesday 16 April 1996 from:

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Beeson Gregory Limited The Registry Royal Mint Court London EC2N 4EY | Royal Bank of Scotland plc Registrars P.O. Box No. 82 Cannon House Redcliffe Way Bristol BS99 7NH | Cliveden PLC FRI House 1 Little New Street London EC4A 3TH |
|--|--|--|

Regulated by The Securities
and Futures Authority Limited

Wednesday 3 April 1996

Modest gains in thin trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

| 1995 | Low | Company | Price | Yld | P/E |
|---------------------|-----|---------|-------|-----|-----|
| ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES | | | | | |
| 100 | 100 | Adnams | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 101 | 101 | Adnams | 101 | 101 | 101 |
| 102 | 102 | Adnams | 102 | 102 | 102 |
| 103 | 103 | Adnams | 103 | 103 | 103 |
| 104 | 104 | Adnams | 104 | 104 | 104 |
| 105 | 105 | Adnams | 105 | 105 | 105 |
| 106 | 106 | Adnams | 106 | 106 | 106 |
| 107 | 107 | Adnams | 107 | 107 | 107 |
| 108 | 108 | Adnams | 108 | 108 | 108 |
| 109 | 109 | Adnams | 109 | 109 | 109 |
| 110 | 110 | Adnams | 110 | 110 | 110 |

| 1995 | Low | Company | Price | Yld | P/E |
|-------|-----|------------------|-------|-----|-----|
| BANKS | | | | | |
| 111 | 111 | Bank of Scotland | 111 | 111 | 111 |
| 112 | 112 | Bank of Scotland | 112 | 112 | 112 |
| 113 | 113 | Bank of Scotland | 113 | 113 | 113 |
| 114 | 114 | Bank of Scotland | 114 | 114 | 114 |
| 115 | 115 | Bank of Scotland | 115 | 115 | 115 |
| 116 | 116 | Bank of Scotland | 116 | 116 | 116 |
| 117 | 117 | Bank of Scotland | 117 | 117 | 117 |
| 118 | 118 | Bank of Scotland | 118 | 118 | 118 |
| 119 | 119 | Bank of Scotland | 119 | 119 | 119 |
| 120 | 120 | Bank of Scotland | 120 | 120 | 120 |

| 1995 | Low | Company | Price | Yld | P/E |
|------------------------|-----|---------|-------|-----|-----|
| BREWERIES, PUBS & REST | | | | | |
| 121 | 121 | Beck's | 121 | 121 | 121 |
| 122 | 122 | Beck's | 122 | 122 | 122 |
| 123 | 123 | Beck's | 123 | 123 | 123 |
| 124 | 124 | Beck's | 124 | 124 | 124 |
| 125 | 125 | Beck's | 125 | 125 | 125 |
| 126 | 126 | Beck's | 126 | 126 | 126 |
| 127 | 127 | Beck's | 127 | 127 | 127 |
| 128 | 128 | Beck's | 128 | 128 | 128 |
| 129 | 129 | Beck's | 129 | 129 | 129 |
| 130 | 130 | Beck's | 130 | 130 | 130 |

| 1995 | Low | Company | Price | Yld | P/E |
|----------------------|-----|----------|-------|-----|-----|
| BUILDING & CONSTRUCT | | | | | |
| 131 | 131 | Building | 131 | 131 | 131 |
| 132 | 132 | Building | 132 | 132 | 132 |
| 133 | 133 | Building | 133 | 133 | 133 |
| 134 | 134 | Building | 134 | 134 | 134 |
| 135 | 135 | Building | 135 | 135 | 135 |
| 136 | 136 | Building | 136 | 136 | 136 |
| 137 | 137 | Building | 137 | 137 | 137 |
| 138 | 138 | Building | 138 | 138 | 138 |
| 139 | 139 | Building | 139 | 139 | 139 |
| 140 | 140 | Building | 140 | 140 | 140 |

| 1995 | Low | Company | Price | Yld | P/E |
|-------------|-----|-------------|-------|-----|-----|
| ELECTRICITY | | | | | |
| 141 | 141 | Electricity | 141 | 141 | 141 |
| 142 | 142 | Electricity | 142 | 142 | 142 |
| 143 | 143 | Electricity | 143 | 143 | 143 |
| 144 | 144 | Electricity | 144 | 144 | 144 |
| 145 | 145 | Electricity | 145 | 145 | 145 |
| 146 | 146 | Electricity | 146 | 146 | 146 |
| 147 | 147 | Electricity | 147 | 147 | 147 |
| 148 | 148 | Electricity | 148 | 148 | 148 |
| 149 | 149 | Electricity | 149 | 149 | 149 |
| 150 | 150 | Electricity | 150 | 150 | 150 |

| 1995 | Low | Company | Price | Yld | P/E |
|--------------------|-----|--------------------|-------|-----|-----|
| BUILDING MATERIALS | | | | | |
| 151 | 151 | Building Materials | 151 | 151 | 151 |
| 152 | 152 | Building Materials | 152 | 152 | 152 |
| 153 | 153 | Building Materials | 153 | 153 | 153 |
| 154 | 154 | Building Materials | 154 | 154 | 154 |
| 155 | 155 | Building Materials | 155 | 155 | 155 |
| 156 | 156 | Building Materials | 156 | 156 | 156 |
| 157 | 157 | Building Materials | 157 | 157 | 157 |
| 158 | 158 | Building Materials | 158 | 158 | 158 |
| 159 | 159 | Building Materials | 159 | 159 | 159 |
| 160 | 160 | Building Materials | 160 | 160 | 160 |

| 1995 | Low | Company | Price | Yld | P/E |
|-------------|-----|-------------|-------|-----|-----|
| ENGINEERING | | | | | |
| 161 | 161 | Engineering | 161 | 161 | 161 |
| 162 | 162 | Engineering | 162 | 162 | 162 |
| 163 | 163 | Engineering | 163 | 163 | 163 |
| 164 | 164 | Engineering | 164 | 164 | 164 |
| 165 | 165 | Engineering | 165 | 165 | 165 |
| 166 | 166 | Engineering | 166 | 166 | 166 |
| 167 | 167 | Engineering | 167 | 167 | 167 |
| 168 | 168 | Engineering | 168 | 168 | 168 |
| 169 | 169 | Engineering | 169 | 169 | 169 |
| 170 | 170 | Engineering | 170 | 170 | 170 |

| 1995 | Low | Company | Price | Yld | P/E |
|-----------|-----|-----------|-------|-----|-----|
| CHEMICALS | | | | | |
| 171 | 171 | Chemicals | 171 | 171 | 171 |
| 172 | 172 | Chemicals | 172 | 172 | 172 |
| 173 | 173 | Chemicals | 173 | 173 | 173 |
| 174 | 174 | Chemicals | 174 | 174 | 174 |
| 175 | 175 | Chemicals | 175 | 175 | 175 |
| 176 | 176 | Chemicals | 176 | 176 | 176 |
| 177 | 177 | Chemicals | 177 | 177 | 177 |
| 178 | 178 | Chemicals | 178 | 178 | 178 |
| 179 | 179 | Chemicals | 179 | 179 | 179 |
| 180 | 180 | Chemicals | 180 | 180 | 180 |

| 1995 | Low | Company | Price | Yld | P/E |
|--------------|-----|--------------|-------|-----|-----|
| DISTRIBUTORS | | | | | |
| 181 | 181 | Distributors | 181 | 181 | 181 |
| 182 | 182 | Distributors | 182 | 182 | 182 |
| 183 | 183 | Distributors | 183 | 183 | 183 |
| 184 | 184 | Distributors | 184 | 184 | 184 |
| 185 | 185 | Distributors | 185 | 185 | 185 |
| 186 | 186 | Distributors | 186 | 186 | 186 |
| 187 | 187 | Distributors | 187 | 187 | 187 |
| 188 | 188 | Distributors | 188 | 188 | 188 |
| 189 | 189 | Distributors | 189 | 189 | 189 |
| 190 | 190 | Distributors | 190 | 190 | 190 |

| 1995 | Low | Company | Price | Yld | P/E |
|-------------------------|-----|-------------------------|-------|-----|-----|
| DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS | | | | | |
| 191 | 191 | Diversified Industrials | 191 | 191 | 191 |
| 192 | 192 | Diversified Industrials | 192 | 192 | 192 |
| 193 | 193 | Diversified Industrials | 193 | 193 | 193 |
| 194 | 194 | Diversified Industrials | 194 | 194 | 194 |
| 195 | 195 | Diversified Industrials | 195 | 195 | 195 |
| 196 | 196 | Diversified Industrials | 196 | 196 | 196 |
| 197 | 197 | Diversified Industrials | 197 | 197 | 197 |
| 198 | 198 | Diversified Industrials | 198 | 198 | 198 |
| 199 | 199 | Diversified Industrials | 199 | 199 | 199 |
| 200 | 200 | Diversified Industrials | 200 | 200 | 200 |

| 1995 | Low | Company | Price | Yld | P/E |
|-----------------------|-----|-----------------------|-------|-----|-----|
| ENGINEERING, VEHICLES | | | | | |
| 201 | 201 | Engineering, Vehicles | 201 | 201 | 201 |
| 202 | 202 | Engineering, Vehicles | 202 | 202 | 202 |
| 203 | 203 | Engineering, Vehicles | 203 | 203 | 203 |
| 204 | 204 | Engineering, Vehicles | 204 | 204 | 204 |
| 205 | 205 | Engineering, Vehicles | 205 | 205 | 205 |
| 206 | 206 | Engineering, Vehicles | 206 | 206 | 206 |
| 207 | 207 | Engineering, Vehicles | 207 | 207 | 207 |
| 208 | 208 | Engineering, Vehicles | 208 | 208 | 208 |
| 209 | 209 | Engineering, Vehicles | 209 | 209 | 209 |
| 210 | 210 | Engineering, Vehicles | 210 | 210 | 210 |

| 1995 | Low | Company | Price | Yld | P/E |
|--------------------|-----|--------------------|-------|-----|-----|
| FOOD MANUFACTURERS | | | | | |
| 211 | 211 | Food Manufacturers | 211 | 211 | 211 |
| 212 | 212 | Food Manufacturers | 212 | 212 | 212 |
| 213 | 213 | Food Manufacturers | 213 | 213 | 213 |
| 214 | 214 | Food Manufacturers | 214 | 214 | 214 |
| 215 | 215 | Food Manufacturers | 215 | 215 | 215 |
| 216 | 216 | Food Manufacturers | 216 | 216 | 216 |
| 217 | 217 | Food Manufacturers | 217 | 217 | 217 |
| 218 | 218 | Food Manufacturers | 218 | 218 | 218 |
| 219 | 219 | Food Manufacturers | 219 | 219 | 219 |
| 220 | 220 | Food Manufacturers | 220 | 220 | 220 |

| 1995 | Low | Company | Price | Yld | P/E |
|-----------------|-----|-----------------|-------|-----|-----|
| HOUSEHOLD GOODS | | | | | |
| 221 | 221 | Household Goods | 221 | 221 | 221 |
| 222 | 222 | Household Goods | 222 | 222 | 222 |
| 223 | 223 | Household Goods | 223 | 223 | 223 |
| 224 | 224 | Household Goods | 224 | 224 | 224 |
| 225 | 225 | Household Goods | 225 | 225 | 225 |
| 226 | 226 | Household Goods | 226 | 226 | 226 |
| 227 | 227 | Household Goods | 227 | 227 | 227 |
| 228 | 228 | Household Goods | 228 | 228 | 228 |
| 229 | 229 | Household Goods | 229 | 229 | 229 |
| 230 | 230 | Household Goods | 230 | 230 | 230 |

| 1995 | Low | Company | Price | Yld | P/E |
|-----------|-----|-----------|-------|-----|-----|
| INSURANCE | | | | | |
| 231 | 231 | Insurance | 231 | 231 | 231 |
| 232 | 232 | Insurance | 232 | 232 | 232 |
| 233 | 233 | Insurance | 233 | 233 | 233 |
| 234 | 234 | Insurance | 234 | 234 | 234 |
| 235 | 235 | Insurance | 235 | 235 | 235 |
| 236 | 236 | Insurance | 236 | 236 | 236 |
| 237 | 237 | Insurance | 237 | 237 | 237 |
| 238 | 238 | Insurance | 238 | 238 | 238 |
| 239 | 239 | Insurance | 239 | 239 | 239 |
| 240 | 240 | Insurance | 240 | 240 | 240 |

| 1995 | Low | Company | Price | Yld | P/E |
|-------------------|-----|-------------------|-------|-----|-----|
| INVESTMENT TRUSTS | | | | | |
| 241 | 241 | Investment Trusts | 241 | 241 | 241 |
| 242 | 242 | Investment Trusts | 242 | 242 | 242 |
| 243 | 243 | Investment Trusts | 243 | 243 | 243 |
| 244 | 244 | Investment Trusts | 244 | 244 | 244 |
| 245 | 245 | Investment Trusts | 245 | 245 | 245 |
| 246 | 246 | Investment Trusts | 246 | 246 | 246 |
| 247 | 247 | Investment Trusts | 247 | 247 | 247 |
| 248 | 248 | Investment Trusts | 248 | 248 | 248 |
| 249 | 249 | Investment Trusts | 249 | 249 | 249 |
| 250 | 250 | Investment Trusts | 250 | 250 | 250 |

| 1995 | Low | Company | Price | Yld | P/E |
|-----------------|-----|-----------------|-------|-----|-----|
| PHARMACEUTICALS | | | | | |
| 251 | 251 | Pharmaceuticals | 251 | 251 | 251 |
| 252 | 252 | Pharmaceuticals | 252 | 252 | 252 |
| 253 | 253 | Pharmaceuticals | 253 | 253 | 253 |
| 254 | 254 | Pharmaceuticals | 254 | 254 | 254 |
| 255 | 255 | Pharmaceuticals | 255 | 255 | 255 |
| 256 | 256 | Pharmaceuticals | 256 | 256 | 256 |
| 257 | 257 | Pharmaceuticals | 257 | 257 | 257 |
| 258 | 258 | Pharmaceuticals | 258 | 258 | 258 |
| 259 | 259 | Pharmaceuticals | 259 | 259 | 259 |
| 260 | 260 | Pharmaceuticals | 260 | 260 | 260 |

| 1995 | Low | Company | Price | Yld | P/E |
|------------------|-----|------------------|-------|-----|-----|
| SUPPORT SERVICES | | | | | |
| 261 | 261 | Support Services | 261 | 261 | 261 |
| 262 | 262 | Support Services | 262 | 262 | 262 |
| 263 | 263 | Support Services | 263 | 263 | 263 |
| 264 | 264 | Support Services | 264 | 264 | 264 |
| 265 | 265 | Support Services | 265 | 265 | 265 |
| 266 | 266 | Support Services | 266 | 266 | 266 |
| 267 | 267 | Support Services | 267 | 267 | 267 |
| 268 | 268 | Support Services | 268 | 268 | 268 |
| 269 | 269 | Support Services | 269 | 269 | 269 |
| 270 | 270 | Support Services | 270 | 270 | 270 |

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UNIT TRUST PRICES 29

Hunting for Perfection~

Hickson to wash off damage of soap wars

BY MARTIN BARROW

HICKSON International, the troubled specialty chemicals company, faces another tough year as it attempts to rid itself of the damaging legacy of the so-called soap wars.

James Hann, the chairman, said that the restoration of "adequate profitability" was a priority, but this was unlikely to be apparent until the second half of 1996. Because of the seasonal structure of profits and cashflow, borrowings are expected to peak at about £100 million before the debt burden will begin to ease.

"While there is no quick-fix to the problems that have beset the company, a good start has been made. We are determined to succeed and will continue to monitor progress closely, taking any further action as appropriate."

ate to achieve our strategic objectives," Mr Hann said. Yesterday, the company reported that it had incurred losses of £43.3 million before tax for 1995, compared with profits of £19.2 million in 1994. Losses included restructuring costs of £20.3 million and losses on business disposals of £28.9 million.

The company is passing the payment of a final dividend. A 2p interim dividend was paid in November. In 1994, the total dividend was cut to 5p a share from 8p in the previous year. The shares fell 4p to 79p yesterday.

Hickson has suffered from tough markets for specialty chemicals and was adversely affected by fallout from the soap wars involving Unilever and Procter & Gamble. Hickson made a management buyout of Persil Power. The cancellation of the contract cost the company about £8 million in profit. It also hastened a widespread restructuring of the business as costs were cut back to compensate for the loss of business, particularly at the Hickson & Welch subsidiary at Castleford, West Yorkshire.

Yesterday Hickson announced the sale of all its South African businesses, raising £3.3 million after expenses. In the United States a management buyout bought Hickson Specialties Inc for £1.2 million. Hickson said that the proceeds of all the sales will help to reduce group debt.

Mr Hann said one more disposal was likely this year, although he did not identify which part of the group would be affected. A deal is expected to be announced in the third quarter. "The priority is getting the level of debt down," he said.

Analysts have downgraded Hickson's profit forecasts for the current year, with David Ingles, of HSBC James Capel, now expecting just £4 million before tax, compared with earlier expectations of £9 million, rising to £10 million in 1997.

Expatriate income lifts Bupa past £1bn

BY ROBERT MILLER

A SURGE in expatriate business helped Bupa, the UK's largest private medical health insurer, lift its annual premium income past £1 billion for the first time.

The non-profit making provident association yesterday announced an operating surplus from its trading activities for last year of £48.9 million, a 19 per cent increase on the previous year. Bupa's investment income and realised gains recovered from a £6.8 million loss in 1994 to a gain of £50.3 million last year. Surplus before tax was up 126 per cent to £99.2 million.

The relatively new venture into the dental cover market lost £4 million, compared with £3.5 million, but Bupa said such a level of loss had been expected. The hospital division recorded a 4.3 per cent increase in cases.

The rise in overseas premium income was boosted by a 13 per cent increase in business from Spain and a 21 per cent rise from Hong Kong. Peter Jacobs, Bupa's chief executive, said: "In an increasingly competitive private medical health care market, Bupa broadly maintained its share whilst strengthening its financial position. There was a small increase in our personal sector membership, and a small decline in the business sector as we shed some loss-making contracts."



George: wants problems addressed



Graham Lawson, chief executive, at Watts Blake Bearn's clay quarry in Kingsteignton, Devon

Sibelco expected to increase WBB stake

BY PAUL DURMAN

WATTS Blake Bearn, the world's leading producer of the ball clays used in tiles and ceramics, expects its largest shareholder to lift its stake above 50 per cent in the next year or so.

Sibelco, a Belgian company that produces sand for the glass industry, owns 48.6 per cent of WBB and, under City rules, will soon be able to buy another 1 per cent. This means Sibelco should be able to gain majority ownership of WBB by the middle of next year.

Graham Lawson, chief executive, said he expected Sibelco to exercise its right to increase its shareholding. But he does not believe Sibelco will then seek to exert greater control over WBB. He said: "Sibelco is a major industrial minerals company that understands the timescale of the business. I would not expect to see any change as long as we continue to perform."

Sibelco has no history of planting its own Belgian management into a business. WBB yesterday reported a 13.8 per cent increase in 1995 pre-tax profits to £11.3 million. Profits were held back by the cost of establishing its business in the Far East. Sales jumped 21.5 per cent to £104.9 million, helped by acquisitions in Germany and The Netherlands, the strong market and demand from Italy and Spain.

A 10.8p final dividend lifts the total by 12.6 per cent to 15.2p a share. Earnings per share rose 13.6 per cent to 31.7p.

Tempus, page 26

Scholl rules out new assault by rebels

BY ERIC REGULY

SCHOLL, the footwear and personal healthcare group, said it did not expect a renewed assault from rebel shareholders in the wake of its improved financial results.

UKAV Continuation Fund bought about 15 per cent of Scholl and called for it to be put on the auction block because it was underperforming. The move failed and the fund has cut its holding to 5 per cent. Scholl has since restructured, shutting most of its unprofitable retail outlets, including all its Canadian stores.

Scholl reported a pre-tax profit before exceptional items of £18.1 million in the year to December 31, up 24.8 per cent from the previous period. Earnings per share before exceptional items were 14p (10.4p). After exceptional items, they were 13p (4.1p loss). A final dividend of 4.2p is to be paid on May 13, making the total dividend 7p, up 9.4 per cent.

Shares in United Friendly rose 32p yesterday after the life assurance group surprised the City with higher than expected profits of £128.2 million (1994: £32.3 million loss) for the year to December 31, 1995.

The figure includes realised and unrealised investment losses and gains for the year in accordance with new accounting rules. Without this, pre-tax profit was £54.7 million, compared with £47.6 million for 1994. The figure of £128.2

United Friendly soars to a surprise profit

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

Shares in United Friendly rose 32p yesterday after the life assurance group surprised the City with higher than expected profits of £128.2 million (1994: £32.3 million loss) for the year to December 31, 1995.

The figure includes realised and unrealised investment losses and gains for the year in accordance with new accounting rules. Without this, pre-tax profit was £54.7 million, compared with £47.6 million for 1994. The figure of £128.2

million included assets from the long term life fund worth £66.3 million (1994: £47 million loss) which were transferred to shareholders.

United Friendly has raised its provision for personal pensions self-selling by £6.1 million to £53.1 million. Ordinary branch annual premium sales fell 10 per cent to £19.3 million, and new industrial branch business fell 28 per cent to £9.1 million. Total dividend is up 24 per cent to 24.5p.

Central banks' reservations ignored

BY PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE European Monetary Institute remains committed to the timetable for the introduction of a single European currency, despite massive reservations expressed by UK and continental European central bankers, both privately and in public.

In its annual report, published today, the EMI said: "Present economic difficulties do not provide a justification for postponing necessary consolidation measures."

Such measures, said the report, are essential to reduce the interest burden on outstanding public debt, to cope with long-term difficulties related to the ageing of the population and to ensure a satisfactory economic performance. Only the implementation of

consolidation measures will allow public finances "to take advantage of the anticipated resurgence of growth so as to comply with a strict application of the convergence criteria on the basis of 1997 figures", it said.

According to the EMI, "1996 will be of crucial importance in paving the way towards monetary union". Under the current timetable, full monetary union is planned for 1999.

Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, was first among Europe's central bank heads to cast doubt over whether the economic conditions in Europe justified sticking with the current timetable when, in February last year, he gave warning of the dangers of moving too quickly to

monetary union. Mr George said last month that he has become more doubtful about moving to monetary union in 1999 until it could be seen how Europe's unemployment problems have been addressed.

Since Mr George first expressed doubt, members of the Bundesbank Council have also shown reservations, as have other central bankers and politicians.

□ Inflation in the European Union fell to an annualised rate of 2.7 per cent in February, the lowest level since January 1987. The EU's statistical office reported yesterday. Luxembourg achieved the best inflation performance with a 1 per cent rise in February. Greece was worst at 8.2 per cent.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Trading mixed for Walker Greenbank

WALKER GREENBANK, the wallcoverings and fabrics company, said the current trading outlook is mixed. Although trading in the UK has improved over the past six months, trade in northern Europe has been difficult and North America was sluggish until the recent launch of a marketing initiative. The Far East remains buoyant and, on balance, the group expects another year of growth.

In the 12 months to January 31, profits rose to £9.4 million before tax, from £9.1 million, on turnover that advanced to £95.8 million, from £75 million. But earnings fell to 5.57p a share, from 6.23p, reflecting the impact of last year's rights issue. The total dividend is lifted to 3.7p a share, from 3.6p, with a final 2.4p. The shares rose 2p to 93p.

Brooks Service up

PROFITS at Brooks Service Group, the textile rental and retail services company, rose to £1.1 million before tax in 1995 from £709,000 in the previous 12 months, in spite of a disappointing contribution from the retail division, which was adversely affected by the extended period of hot weather and sluggish consumer demand. The company is expanding its photography services in more outlets in an effort to lift its profits. Earnings rose to 6.04p a share, from 4.08p. There is a final dividend of 2p a share, lifting the total to 3p from 2.25p.

Halma acquires Keeler

HALMA, the manufacturer of security equipment and fire detection systems, has acquired Keeler, which makes ophthalmic instruments used by surgeons and physicians, from Dollond & Aitchison for £7.1 million. In the year to November 25, Keeler earned profits of £1.07 million before tax on sales of £14.3 million. About 60 per cent of sales are overseas and there is a wholly owned subsidiary in America. Halma has paid a further £1.4 million to acquire Keeler's principal office in Windsor.

James Halstead steady

JAMES HALSTEAD GROUP, the flooring products supplier, said volumes in the United Kingdom were static in the half-year to the end of December, but exports rose a further 28 per cent. Margins in the core commercial vinyl flooring business were assisted by some easing in raw material costs. Interim pre-tax profits rose to £4.96 million from £4.74 million, while earnings increased to 10.88p a share, from 10.49p. The dividend is increased to 3.25p a share, compared with 3p.

GBE back in black

GBE International, the process engineering company, returned to profit last year, earning £1.7 million before tax compared with losses of £5.4 million in 1994. The recovery was achieved in spite of a further £1 million write-off. Operating profits before exceptional items were £3.7 million, compared with losses of £1.4 million previously. Earnings were 2.7p a share, against losses of 7.7p. The total dividend is maintained at 1.5p a share, with an unchanged 1p final. The shares rose 1p to 56p.

Innovations lifts payout

INNOVATIONS GROUP, the home shopping company formerly known as Kleeneze Holdings, earned profits of £9.8 million in the 16 months to the end of December, including a net VAT recovery of £4.8 million. The extended financial period reflects a change of financial year-end. In the 12 months to the end of December 1994 profits were £128,000. The company said that latest profits from continuing operations were £1.7 million, compared with £1.2 million. The dividend is 2.5p a share, compared with 1.5p, an annualised increase of 25 per cent.

Trafficmaster in the red

TRAFFICMASTER, the traffic information systems group whose chairman is Sir James McKinnon, incurred losses of £2.48 million last year, compared with a deficit of £1.31 million, reflecting the heavy cost of product launches. Losses per share totalled 11.3p, compared with 6.5p. There is again no dividend. The company has sold more than 37,000 information systems to retailers and customers, compared with a subscriber base of fewer than 3,000 two years ago. The market for in-car systems continued to expand, Sir James said.

Media buyer advances

CIA GROUP, Europe's second largest independent media buyer, saw gross billings rise 28 per cent to £904 million last year, mainly as a result of organic growth. New clients included Deutsche Telecom, Barilla, Olivetti, Calvin Klein and Lever Brothers. At the pre-tax level profits rose to £6.68 million from £5.35 million. Earnings were 7.65p a share, compared with 6.71p. A final dividend of 1.62p a share makes a total of 2.16p, an increase of 15 per cent. The shares rose 6p to 175p.

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How can the surroundings of St Paul's be turned from an eyesore into a sight for sore eyes? Marcus Binney reports

Paternoster, which art sheer hell ...

The surroundings of St Paul's present the most dismal setting for any great cathedral in Europe. Paternoster is a scandal. The office blocks are largely empty, the shops boarded up, and the only signs of life are a pub and a burger bar. The one healthy looking tenant is a Japanese bookshop. Yet even now we hear the first murmurs that Lord Holford's 1960s precinct was really quite "sympathetic" in design. At this rate there soon may be calls to preserve it alongside the brutalist abomination of the Hayward Gallery.

The first need is to recognise just how wrong Holford was. His big mistake was to perceive St Paul's as a Renaissance building rather than a Baroque one. He sought to surround it with the kind of paved piazza seen in Italian Renaissance paintings. It might just have worked if the piazza was really vast, with all buildings set several hundred yards away from St Paul's. But in the City, that can never be possible.

If Renaissance architecture is about harmony and balance, Baroque sets out to stun the eye. The best views of St Paul's are the partial ones, like that up Ludgate Hill, where only half the west front can be seen. Canaletto caught the drama superbly, and it overweighs this day. St Paul's is seen at its best from close to, its dome glimpsed along narrow streets and over rooftops. From any distance, its one awkward feature, the expanse of blank stone beneath the colonnade of the dome, becomes uncomfortably apparent. At Paternoster, there ought to be a wonderful vista of the north transept and its delightful semi-circular portico framed between neighbouring buildings. Instead, Holford gives you a view as through a letter box, beneath an office block.

St Paul's is seen at its best from close to, along narrow streets

The next mistake was to clad the surrounding buildings in Portland stone, to match the cathedral. The result of so much pale stone is to make St Paul's itself look bland. Baroque is about contrast and the deep plum and orange brick of the Chapter House, to the north, set off Wren's masterpiece perfectly.

Both John Simpson and Terry Farrell, who prepared the current approved Paternoster plans, understood this. Through narrow pedestrian streets they offered the glimpses of the west towers, dome and transept that would have shown St Paul's off to best advantage. Now their scheme is under attack from the very people who gave it permission: the City of London Corporation. Michael Cassidy, head of policy and resources, has made clear his determination to kill off a classical Paternoster. Farrell has been stood down as masterplanner by Mitsubishi, which is now the sole owner of the site. "I was never happy about it being an exclusively classical theme," Farrell says.

Sir William Whitfield is now reviewing the masterplan for Mitsubishi. If Whitfield recommends more than minor changes to the master plan or the individual buildings, new permissions will be required. In that case, a public inquiry becomes both desirable and inevitable — certainly so if John Gummer is still Environment Secretary. This would allow a wider and more fundamental review of priorities than the City Corporation will ever encourage.

The first question is: why does St Paul's have to be surrounded and overlooked by offices? There is already an abundance of empty office space in the City. Those buildings which look on to St Paul's should be assigned to uses which bring people who will enjoy the view of the cathedral. The time has come when the City's office monoculture must



"There ought to be a wonderful vista of the north transept of St Paul's framed between neighbouring buildings. Instead, the view is as through a letter box"

be overridden. This does not necessarily mean sacrificing commercial interests. When I went to Japan, I found the Japanese wishing for a major hotel in the centre of the City of London where they could entertain and hold large functions.

Hong Kong has hotels in the downtown business area. The Square Mile would positively gain from a hotel of the legendary quality of the Mandarin Oriental or the Peninsula.

As well as one main hotel (no high rise here, obviously), there should be some smaller ones. Hotel rooms looking south over St Paul's would have one of the best outlooks in London. Visitors could sleep with open windows, as there is no traffic below.

The main hotel drop-off point could be at the side in Watling Street. The new owners could be the catalyst that also brings cafés and restaurants where people can sit out in front of the cathedral. More of such amenities would encourage visitors and tourists to linger in the area, explore the City and seek out the numerous beautiful smaller churches.

The new Bishop has taken the important step of deciding to move into the old Deanery, south of St Paul's.

A public inquiry would provide the opportunity to consider whether a residential element should be provided on site. In Berlin today, every single new urban block has to contain a residential element.

For Mitsubishi to obtain a new planning permission is likely to take the best part of two years, with or without an inquiry. Current delays have already provoked one existing tenant, Charterhouse Bank, to seek permission to refurbish Sheldon House, overlooking St Paul's churchyard, and

extend it with a high-tech mansard.

The fastest way to make progress would be for Gummer to indicate — as he has done on other London sites — that, given the importance of St Paul's, he will hold a public inquiry on any proposals and determine them himself.

The idea of an inquiry appeals Cassidy: "We pushed through the permission for the Deutsche Bank in eight weeks and that involved bridging a street. Then we fought a law case on the issue, and that was done in a week," he says.

Cassidy sees a window opening up as major European banks and institutions

move headquarters to London. "One institution could take half-a-million square feet at Paternoster, even all the office space on the site," he says. He is urging Mitsubishi to begin demolition right away, which must be good news.

But if the new Paternoster is railroaded through the City, there is little likelihood that the surroundings of St Paul's will be given the basic rethink that is needed. We will simply get a 1990s version of Holford: tasteful modernism that shows a fundamental misunderstanding of the true quality of Wren's masterpiece and fails to bring the street life that is desperately needed.

Back on the cultural track

Now that Lille really is the "crossroads of Europe" — the new Lille-Europe station, rising like a blister over the Euro-star lines, is the very visible evidence — it needs all the dignity it can get. And, if it is to secure the investment it seeks, it needs at least the standard signs of cultural life. Slowly, after an all-time low 11 years ago, when the city withdrew funding from the Opéra du Nord and closed its embarrassing imposing opera house, it is reassembling its reputation.

Fortunately for the city, the Région Nord-Pas de Calais has consistently encouraged the growth of the Orchestre National de Lille, which was rescued by Jean-Claude Casadesus from the remnants of the broadcast orchestra abandoned by Radio France in 1975. Under his continuing direction, it has become one of the best French orchestras.

The splendid collection of the Palais des Beaux Arts has been closed to the public for years but, thanks to the initiative of the same council that dismissed it, opera has returned to the opera house. The Opéra de Lille has gradually expanded its activities from one production in 1991 to four this year and has increased its subscription audience from 200 to almost 2,000. According to Ricardo Szwarc, who as artistic director has laboriously developed the Opéra de Lille out of virtually nothing, when he can regularly mount five productions in a season he will have achieved his ambition for the company.

The current *Pelléas et Mélisande* is a strategically

placed all-or-nothing demonstration of what Lille can do. Beautifully designed and subtly directed by Pier'Alli, while it stretches the resources of the turn-of-the-century theatre and the part-time company to their limits, it is as truthful a production of this problematic work as anyone is likely to see. It is largely sepia-coloured, patiently timed, unsensationally presented and yet, under the all-seeing eye projected behind it, is revealing. A hint of foliage, of gothic rock formation, of strangely curvilinear architecture, most of it behind layers of gauze, is enough to set each scene in a precise yet poetically suggestive context.

Jean-Claude Casadesus's direction of the score is in much the same non-dogmatic, unaggressive spirit. Controlled and at the same time flexible in rhythm, dramatically assertive only at such climactic points as the death of Pelléas, it is played with much sensitivity to colour by the Orchestre National de Lille and idiomatically sung by a French cast promising enough to have encouraged Naxos to record the production.

There are engaging performances from Mireille Delunsch as Mélisande and Gérard Thérut as Pelléas, a firm if undercharacterised Golaud in Armand Arapiou and an authoritative Arkel in Gabriel Bacquier. If Pier'Alli were as imaginative in directing his singers as he is in concept and design, his production would be a full-scale success.

GERALD LARNER

BLUES AND JAZZ: Chicago sound with a Texan twang; off-night for a new star; wall-to-wall sax

Lone star shooting from the hippest

THE problem for any Texas blues guitarist is to escape the enormous shadow cast by one of the Lone Star state's most influential sons, the late Stevie Ray Vaughan. Bobby Mack, born in 1954, is almost an exact contemporary of Vaughan's. Indeed, when they met in Austin in the early Seventies, they used to hang out in the same bars and jam with the same musicians.

But for Mack the experience of backing such artists as Buddy Guy, Junior Wells and Albert Collins, and a liking for Freddie King and Elmore James, seem to have been enough to give him a niche of his own. With

telling, self-composed numbers such as *Don't Put No Headstone on My Grave* and *The Ship's Going Down*, from his new album, *Sugar All Night*, given a tight, no-frills treatment by Mack, Mark Goodwin on keyboards, Kelly Donnelly on bass and Dan Frezek on

Bobby Mack
100 Club, WI

drums, Mack is able to distance himself from the rest of the Texas crowd.

In fact, Chicago seems to be as much his spiritual home, as he showed with a soulful reworking of the Tyrone Davis hit *Can I Change My Mind* and a relaxed *Wang Dang Doodle*, leading

up to an all-the-plugs-pulled-out version of Elmore James's *Talk to Me Baby*.

As the 100 Club began to resemble a Texas roadhouse, Mack responded by playing the guitar behind his neck and then behind his back. If the night had been a little longer he'd have probably ended up by picking out tunes with his teeth. For an artist who has been named Texas Music Ambassador to the World by the Texas Senate (the title, says Mack, wowed them in Japan), he proved to have all the right credentials.

JOHN CLARKE

Cold fire missing a spark

Jessica Williams
Purcell Room

EVERYBODY has been talking about Jessica Williams, and with good reason. For one thing, the American pianist has proved that you do not necessarily have to be signed to a major company in order to achieve recognition. Corporate music is always useful, of course, but the respect and admiration of other musicians goes a long way too.

It was a poetic moment when Dave Brubeck contributed liner notes to Williams's excellent trio album *In The Pocket*, recorded for the Hep label in 1993. *Take Five* was the first jazz record she heard as a teenager. A graduate of the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, she was given the disc by her piano teacher, who had heard her improvising on Rachmaninov.

Bearing in mind the many personal problems she has had, Williams more than deserves this belated acclaim. Players of her fortysomething generation are constantly being overlooked in favour of younger and more marketable

musicians. An improviser with an idiosyncratic sense of structure, she is always prepared to take risks rather than simply offer old masters.

But with risk comes the occasional failure. Her decision to focus more and more on solo performances means that any fleeting lapse of inspiration will be instantly exposed. At her South Bank recital — as on her new Concord recording, *Gratitude* — her skeletal phrasing would have benefited from a forceful rhythmic section.

The evening still had its high points. The minimalist, gospel-tinged *Stonewall Blues* was given an exuberant reading, Williams at one point muffling the strings with her fingers in order to create the illusion that she was swapping four-bar phrases with a bass player.

At their most inspired, her right-hand runs have all the clarity of a horn player's, while the asymmetrical patterns evoke the quirkiness of Thelonious Monk. Her choice of material is always unpredictable, skipping from *I'm Getting Sentimental Over You* to a strident Roland Kirk melody. But the dominant impression this time around was of a musician searching for fresh ideas and, for once, coming up short. The compelling cross-rhythms of her trio sessions were missing and even her distinctive blends of harmonic shades seemed under-nourished.

CLIVE DAVIS

Masters at their peak

Roots
Ronnie Scott's

A SEPTET with a four-saxophone front line, the repertoire band Roots exists, says the soprano player Nathan Davis, "because of the historical thing — keeping the music alive. It happens outside jazz: baroque, romantic, classical music — all that music is still alive today because of repertory orchestras." The band, since its formation in 1991, has slowly expanded its repertoire from the basics — music written by or for the music's most famous saxophonists — to include medley arrangements of pieces associated with same and originals by band members dedicated to same.

With such a brief, it would be easy for Roots to relax into a sophisticated "jamming" band, endlessly grandstanding bagpipers such as *Cottonmouth* or to become drily academic, subordinating jazz's *raison d'être* — individual expression — to a desire to preserve the classics of the genre in musical aspic.

From their opening number, however —

Coltrane's early 1960s classic, *Impressions* — it became clear that Roots have more than enough skill, commitment and unequivocal enthusiasm for the music to ensure that even familiar fare comes alive. Thus, after a bluesy solo packed with plaintively creamy high-register work from alto player Arthur Blythe, a warbling, melodic contribution from tenor/MD Benny Golson and a crisp, intelligent piano solo from Kirk Lightsey, the piece became an excursion into funkier territory, courtesy of tenor player Chico Freeman.

Oliver Nelson's sweetly plangent *Stolen Moments* also proved a perfect vehicle for the band's trademark mix of formal arrangements — this one by Davis — and vigorous improvisation, the tune's careful four-horn theme-statement setting a mood of wistful earnestness which opened up easily and naturally into a bluesy lode for the soloists. Billie Holiday's *Lower Man* featured Davis exploring every nook and cranny of Ram Ramirez's famous tune with just the rhythm section of Lightsey, bassist Buster Williams and drummer Ed Thigpen. A Williams original, *Toku-Du*, a blues theme, provided a rousing climax. Featured alongside the British singer Ian Shaw, as they are for a two-week Frith Street residency, Roots are essential listening, seven masters at the summit of their craft.

CHRIS PARKER

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MUSICALS

Doris Day as cuit figure?
That is what a new London musical hopes to achieve



YOUNG ARTS

How a Greenwich theatre company gives primary schools a taste of drama — and moral philosophy

THE TIMES
ARTS



MUSIC

Daniele Gatti impresses at the Barbican with a spirited performance of Bruckner's Third



OFFER

Tickets at half-price to see Cheryl Studer in Arabella at Covent Garden

CONCERT
Twinkle revealed

IN HIS short sojourn at the London Symphony Orchestra's Bruckner and Mozart series, Daniele Gatti, music director-elect of the Royal Philharmonic, is showing himself not only a natural Brucknerian but an instinctive Brucknerian too. It has taken Gatti to prove that Bruckner's brass really can be at ease in the Barbican. And it is Gatti who has revealed Bruckner as a lord of the dance as well as of the organ loft.

In the trio of the Third Symphony's third movement, we at long last caught a glimpse of the twinkle in Bruckner's eye. Why so many conductors are reluctant to see it is a mystery; but, as this series has shown, there are fewer mysteries so impenetrable as those to do with the truly convincing realisation of these symphonies.

LSO/Gatti
Barbican

What did convince about Gatti's Bruckner was his ability to pace all the "movements" within each movement as if they truly were part of an organic whole. Gatti's closeness to the human voice is very much a part of his understanding of the breathing of Bruckner's music. He listens to the lyrical shadow-side of a phrase, and folds it into its brighter light so that rhythms resonate, and choral climaxes glow.

Something of the same thinking had been at work in Mozart's Symphony No 40. Neither nervously fast nor portentously slow, this opening was tremulous with anticipation yet assured. The assertion and response of its classical form became a matter of dialogue and ensemble: the second movement became an arena for the play of musical figures of speech, patterns of graceful rhetoric.

The Menuetto's synopses and the contrapuntal writing in the finale could have showed sharper teeth; but this was not Gatti's way. With a finale whose opening notes sprung up as naturally as a bulb in spring, and with a sure sense of rhythmic poise and textual balance, there was hardly a need to labour the point.

HILARY FINCH

A new stage show focuses on the songs, more than the troubles, of Doris Day. Clive Davis reports

What will be, will be Doris

Perhaps it was inevitable. So many entertainers have had their lives recycled on the stage in recent years — Al Jolson, Buddy Holly and Elvis Presley are all jostling for attention in the West End at this very moment — that Doris Day's turn was bound to come sooner or later. By no means the most lavish spectacle of them all, *Definitely Doris* — the Music of Doris Day receives its world premiere at the King's Head in North London next week.

For those who think of Day simply as the winsome star of a clutch of lightweight comedies and musicals of the 1950s, the notion of constructing an entire show around her career might seem unusually cynical, even by the standards of the theatreland. Is this the latest manifestation of the post-modern obsession with camp and kitsch? Should we prepare to be regaled with deeply ironic readings of *Que Sera Sera* or cries of "Whipcrack-away" aimed at the leather-and-bondage fraternity? Probably not. The creative team behind *Definitely Doris* — led by producer Gerald Goehring — hopes that the show will help to re-establish Day's reputation as one of the outstanding singers and actresses of the postwar years.

As long ago as 1980 the National Film Theatre staged a Day retrospective, with the explicit aim of erasing her image as the anodyne Girl Next Door. Under the mischievous banner *Move Over Preconceptions*, the season highlighted her impressive performances in Hitchcock's *The Man Who Knew Too Much* and her portrayal of the torch singer and gangster's moll Ruth Etting in the drama *Love Me or Leave Me*.

None of this revisionism would have even been necessary, it could be argued, if Day had decided to take the role of Mrs Robinson in Mike Nichols's classic satire *The Graduate*. The part was offered to her, but she declined, and it was Anne Bancroft's long, stockinged legs that were to become emblems of the sexual revolution in the cinema. Day herself made her last feature film not long afterwards, appearing in *With Six You Get Eggroll*. In the decades since then she has thrown herself into a new vocation as an animal rights campaigner.

Her life would provide ample material for one of those over-ripe TV mini-series. The performer who was born Doris Kappelhoff in 1922 started out as a dancer before taking up singing lessons to pass the time while recovering from injuries sustained in

a car crash. The first of several husbands turned violent: many years later she was to discover that another had, along with her business manager, squandered most of her fortune on ill-advised financial ventures.

Not much of all this biographical detail appears to have survived in the final draft of *Definitely Doris*. An earlier version of the show opened off-Broadway in 1992 and starred the singer Patty Carver (who also appears in *Definitely Doris*, and co-wrote the book). Then playing under the title *Day Dreams*, the piece made great play of Day's troubled private life, a tactic Goehring now regards as a mistake. "People came away saying: 'All this stuff about her life is fine, but we're more interested in her singing.' Now we want to show how the music has affected people's lives over the years."

"We want to show how the music has affected people's lives"

How good a singer was Day in any case? Better than most of her hit albums suggested. Having begun as a band singer with Les Brown, she took Ella Fitzgerald as one of her early models. In the years after her chart success with *Sentimental Journey* in 1945 she became a perennial star of the Columbia roster, although the over-cooked orchestral settings often did her few favours.

Her talent was never fully suppressed, though. One Columbia reissue, *Show Time*, finds her matched with Frank Sinatra's former arranger Axel Stordahl on an imposing set of Broadway standards. The fastidious Cole Porter was apparently much taken by her reading of *I Love Paris*. More recently, the leading American critic, Will Friedwald, has lavished praise on Day. She is, he believes, "the most underappreciated pop singer of all time".

Friedwald is in good company. Tony Bennett and Rosemary Clooney are both honorary members of the International Doris Day Society, based in the unlikely location of Ambleside, in the Lake District. According to its head, Maryn Daye, Britain still leads the world in Day worship, ahead of Australia, Japan and, in a lowly fourth place, America.

Daye, who publishes a quarterly newsletter about Day and has been co-ordinating the Columbia reissues, also acted as an adviser on *Definitely Doris*. His fellow society members will no doubt make their feelings plain about the show at their convention in Leeds next month.

● *Definitely Doris* opens at the King's Head, Upper Street, London N1 0JT 126 191st on April 10
● *The Doris Day Society*, 31 Kirkfield Rise, Ambleside, Cumbria LA22 9DX



"Even when lounging around the house, film star Doris Day still believes in being fashionable," runs the caption to this 1959 publicity photograph. That's the sort of attitude that gets you loved by millions

DANCE

Kiss of death

ON THE independent dance scene — where choreographers call the shots — Ricochet Dance Company is an oddity. The company is run by dancers and it is they who commission choreographers to make work which involves them in the creative process. What an astute pair Kate Gower and Karin Potisk turned out to be. In 1992 their company won the Best Performers Award at the important Bagnolet competition with a work they had commissioned from Ben Craft and Gary Lambert. This year Ricochet scores again at Bagnolet, Javier De Frutos winning a choreography prize for his Ricochet commission.

De Frutos's prizewinner, *E Mucho Disperato (And I die in despair)*, was on show as part of Ricochet's Spring Loaded programme. Set to Act III of Tosca, it has the advantage of Puccini's impassioned writing to set the blood running. The five dancers, men and women alike in blood-red dresses, are driven by the music into an exhausting succession of potent theatrical images.

Ricochet The Place

First is sex: a kiss between two men opens proceedings on a humorous note; when two women repeat the sequence later it looks desperately serious. Then is death: the kiss of love becomes the kiss-of-life for fallen colleagues. Eventually De Frutos's choreography reaches the point where sex and death are inseparable. You can't tell one from the other, the choreography seems to be saying: that's the price of life.

Ricochet also presented the London premiere of Wayne McGregor's *Urban Savage*, a work for five dancers that explores the relationship between vulnerability and aggression. Their bodies (dressed by Ursula Bombshell in what looks like black cling film) seem to invite touch, even though it's not of the pleasurable variety.

They reel from the impact of the electronic sound collage, which runs the gamut from Baroque melodies to splashes of water, by submissively subsiding into the floor, or violently contracting in pained response. One by one they are thrown by an invisible punch, they kick out at their imagined attackers, they roll over seeking respite from the onslaught. McGregor catches the pulse of dark alleyways: his is a cold wasteland where human compassion is the first casualty. Like the De Frutos, it's pretty strong stuff. Any company that has both McGregor and De Frutos in its repertoire must be doing something right.

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● CLUB members in London over the Easter weekend can take advantage of big savings on shows. To book, please ring the listed number, quoting your membership number:

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Gielgud, Apr 5, 8 (8pm): *Chapter Two*. Tickets £14 (normally £24). Tel 0171-494 5065

Albery, Apr 5 (7.45pm), 6 (3pm): *Company*. Tickets £20 (normally £30). Tel 0171-369 1750

Prince of Wales, Apr 5 (8.30pm), 6 (5.30pm): *Elvis — the Musical*. Tickets £15 (normally £25). Tel 0171-839 5987

Coliseum, Apr 4 (7.30pm): *Orfeo*. Dress circle tickets £15, £23 (normally £25, £33); upper circle £12, £15 (E22, £25). Apr 6 (8.30pm): *Don Pasquale*. Dress circle £19, £27 (normally £29, £37); upper circle £12, £19 (E22, £29). Tel 0171-632 8300

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Apr 15: *Cinderella*. Tickets £10 (normally £16). Tel 0181-460 6677

BLACKPOOL Grand Theatre

Apr 23: *Cinderella*. April 24: *Gala*. Two tickets for the price of one (normally £4 to £21). Tel 01253 28572

NORTHAMPTON DeWag Theatre

Apr 30-May 2: *Gala*. Save £3 on tickets (normally £13.50 to £17.50). Tel 01604 24811

EASTBOURNE Congress Theatre

May 7, 8: *Cinderella*. Tickets 20 per cent off (normally £6.50 to £17.50). Tel 01323 412 000

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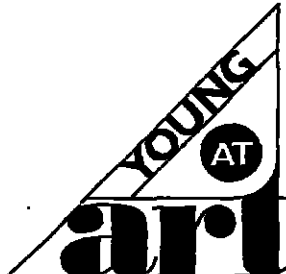
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It is 2,500 years ago, and a group of 11-year-olds is trying to reach Athens

The magical history tour



A Persian slave groans on the quayside. Several children run for their ship home. To turn back and free him would mean missing the boat, the voyage back home and the chance to bring off a business deal with the slave's Greek masters. But if they leave him, he will return to hard labour in the silver mines, and they will lose a possible negotiator for peace. The decision is theirs. Or ours.

The tableau comes as the dénouement of a subtly powerful drama enacted in the hall of Marvels Lane Primary School, in Grove Park, south-east London. Three actors from Greenwich and Lewisham's Young People's Theatre (GYPT), in costume, are working with a class of 25 ten and eleven-year-olds in school uniform.

It began, as all good stories do, with a journey. The sets and backdrop are painted in the children's minds: an eagle's-eye view of an island 2,500 years ago: the scent of oranges; the grey glow of an olive grove. The terror of a devastating storm. A sea-voyage to Athens to enlist help.

We are in *The Lap of the*

Gods. The children are tugged this way and that, out of story into drama: from listening into involvement. They are distanced by tale-telling into reflection, catapulted by reaction and response into empathy and identification.

Through the forests and across the quicksands they go, finding the harbour. Markers become the masts of a ship, only to be transformed on disembarkation into the pillars of the city gates.



Actors and schoolchildren put their imaginations together to pose and unravel a moral conundrum — while having fun

seus and the Gorgon, created from a term of improvisation and scriptwriting, will come under scrutiny during the school's summer Book Week, from June 10 to 15. The experiences of this morning were something else, though.

At midday, the slave remained in his shackles on the quayside. The vote at Marvels Lane had gone against him. "It was incredibly revealing," Chung says. "Some of the kindest, most co-operative girls in the class were shouting for him to be tied up. They went for the safe option. It was the toughest — the lads who are normally reluctant to show emotion — who stayed with him the longest."

HILARY FINCH

● GYPT: Burrage Road, London SE18 7JZ (0181-654 1314)

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Britannia Village is open from 10am to 6pm all four days of Easter. For further information and details of the weekend's events, call Sheila Whitbread or Steve Osmond on 0171 474 2200. <http://www.wimpey.co.uk/wimpey/britvlg.htm>



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Disciplinary record in spotlight

Hughes may serve fourth ban of troubled season

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

OFF a football pitch, Mark Hughes is softly spoken, family orientated and regarded by many as a thoroughly decent man. On it, he becomes a niggly, persistent offender forever hovering on the brink of misdemeanour. Today, he faces the Football Association (FA), and is likely to receive further advice as to his future conduct at work.

Hughes, 32, the Chelsea forward, has been booked 14 times this season, sent off once and accrued 45 disciplinary points. He has served three terms of suspension, totalling seven matches, and is likely to receive another spell on the sidelines. He could also be fined.

A new ban would start on Saturday, ruling him out of Chelsea's FA Cup Premier League match over the Easter period against Aston Villa and Bolton Wanderers. An FA spokesman said yesterday: "He will have the chance to speak to the commission and

explain why he has been booked so much."

Chelsea can ill afford to lose Hughes, who joined them for £1.5 million from Manchester United last summer. Their possible routes to European qualification are disappearing fast. On Sunday they lost 2-1 to United in the FA Cup semi-finals, and a poor run of only one victory in their past seven FA Cup Premier League



Hughes: 14 bookings

matches has damaged their chances of a league finish sufficiently high to gain a UEFA Cup place.

Last season, Ian Wright, the Arsenal forward, was suspended for four games and fined £1,000 after breaching the third level of the disciplinary structure, although he did it a month earlier than Hughes. Mark Ford, the Leeds United midfielder player, was also due to appear before the FA today, for reaching 45 points, but is involved in his club's match against Southampton. His case will be dealt with by letter.

Mick Harford, the Wimbledon forward, will also be at the FA to explain his part in an incident during the FA Cup quarter-final against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge, which was drawn 2-2 early last month. Harford had a verbal exchange with Glenn Hoddle, the Chelsea manager, and allegedly gesticulated at supporters when he was substituted. Paul Danson, the reserve official, reported only the latter incident.

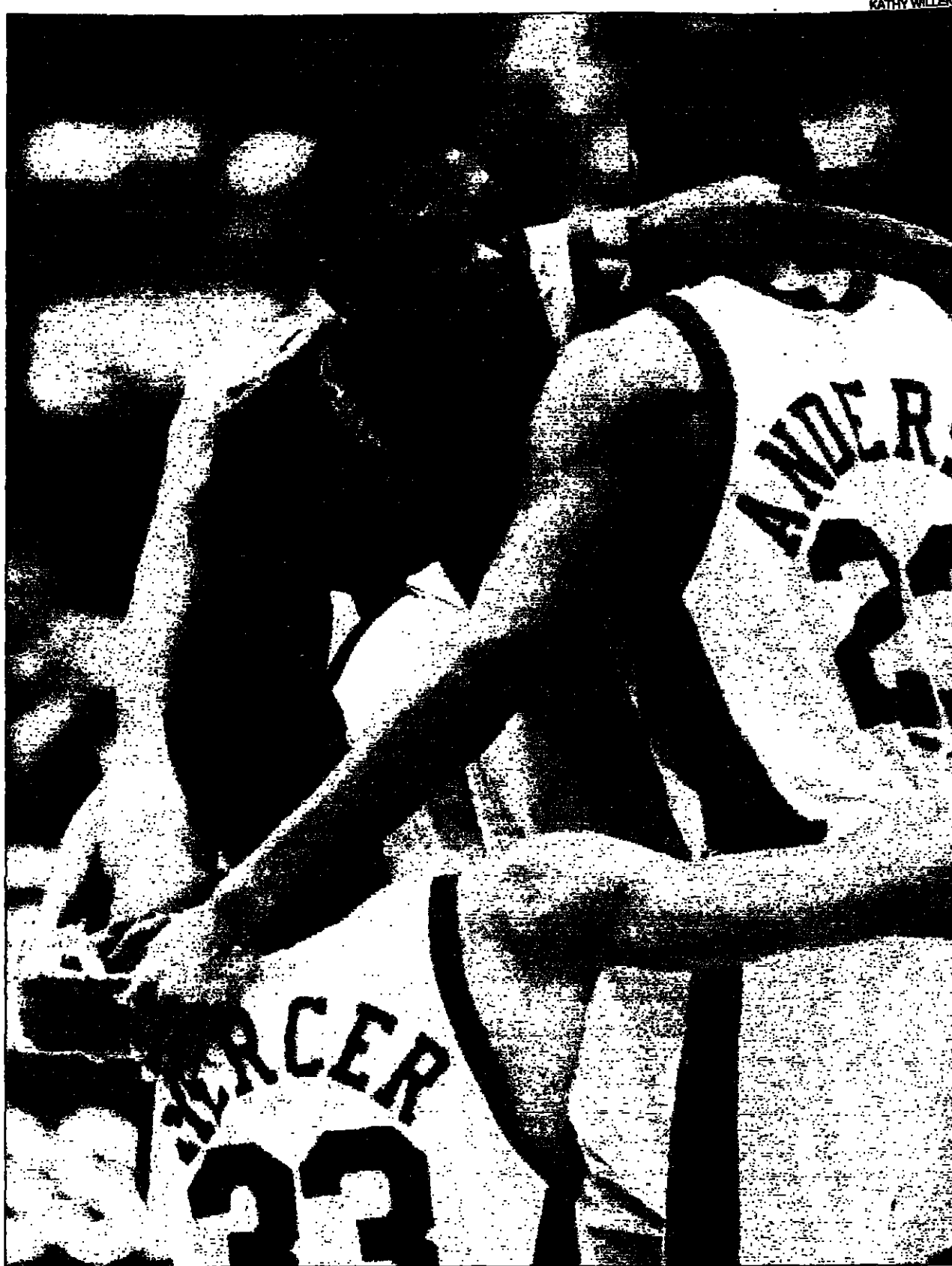
Manchester United said yesterday that they had already shut the Old Trafford doors on their supporters who appeared on the FA's blacklist of people who had sold FA Cup Final tickets for profit last season. Thirteen of the 36 people named on the list, which was published on Monday, were connected to the Lancashire club.

"We were made aware of these people immediately after the final and took the necessary action to withdraw whatever facilities they had with United," Ken Merrett, the United secretary, said. "Any one who was a season ticket or league match ticket holder had this withdrawn and those who were in our membership cancelled."

Merrett claimed that many of the listed supporters had allowed their tickets to go to a third party, who had then sold them on for a profit.

One £17 ticket for the final, which United lost to Everton, was sold for what is believed to be a record sum of £640 and a £30 seat fetched £450. The FA's punishment was to ban the offenders from receiving Cup Final tickets for up to 20 years.

Last year's final was the first at which new laws existed to combat the touts, with fines of up to £5,000 available, but the Home Office has yet to publish prosecution and conviction figures.



Walter McCarty embraces his teammates, Ron Mercer and Derek Anderson, after Kentucky won the United States college basketball title in East Rutherford on Monday night. The 76-67 victory over Syracuse at the

Meadowlands gave Kentucky their first championship for 18 years and their sixth in all. For Nick Pitino, the Kentucky coach, the title represents the climax of seven years' work with the college. When he was signed, Pitino

promised he would return them to glory. "The university is what we're all about," he said, "but this team belongs to the state of Kentucky and we're very excited that we represented them so well in a national championship."

Barbarians make first visit to Japan

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

TRADITIONAL tours may be things of rugby union's past but they are proudly upheld by the Barbarians who, next month, will make their first visit to Japan. They have already received the enthusiastic support of such players as Bath's Jeremy Guscott and Jonathan Callard for the two-match visit in aid of the Kobe earthquake appeal.

The Barbarians, who play Cardiff on Saturday, will meet Kobe Steel — whose head office was devastated by the earthquake early last year —

on June 2 and then an invitation XV in Kyoto on June 5. Tours to the southern hemisphere by both Scotland and Wales will limit their choice of players, but neither England nor Ireland have close-season commitments.

One player unlikely to be available is Damian Hopley, the Wasps centre who captained England's sevens squad in Hong Kong last weekend. Hopley, who played alongside Guscott and Callard against South Africa last November, must see a specialist for an arthroscopy next week to discover the extent of ligament damage sustained to his

right knee during the tournament.

Next season, when clubs and countries have drawn up their contract for players, the question of compensation over such injuries as this must be resolved. Hopley will miss his club's final month of league fixtures, though he was gratified at the resolve which carried England through to the semi-finals in Hong Kong, where he will hope to be involved next year in the defence of the World Cup sevens title.

England hope to give their squad better preparation next season for the World Cup,

which will be played in eight pools of three teams each, with 64 countries seeking qualification. But, if the established tournaments in Dubai next November and Punta del Este next January are to be used as qualifying events, England as holders may be forced to look elsewhere.

Orrell and Moseley are in a tussle to bring Frano Botica, the former All Black international, back to rugby union. Moseley said yesterday that the Castledore rugby league player had agreed to join them, but then Orrell came in with a better offer and Botica wants time to consider.

IN BRIEF

Towers go for Royal finish to campaign

AS FORMALITIES go, there can be no greater one than when London Towers go into their match against Hemel Hempstead Royals at Wembley Court tonight expecting the victory which would give them their first Budweiser League basketball title (Nicholas Harting writes).

Towers, who have already captured the 7-Up Trophy and the National Cup, meet the league's bottom club, who have already lost this season's two corresponding fixtures by margins of 29 points and 14.

Although a London victory tonight would take them to the same 60-point mark that the defending champions, Sheffield Sharks, can still reach, assuming they also win tonight against Doncaster Panthers, London would take the title because they have beaten the Sharks in two of their three league games this season.

Flying start

Snooker: John Higgins, the title-holder, comfortably booked his place in the last 32 of the British Open in Plymouth with a 5-1 first-round victory over Jamie Burnett yesterday. Ronnie O'Sullivan, the runner-up last year, eased past Oliver King 5-2 and Ken Doherty beat Barry Pinches 5-1.

John Parrott recovered from the loss of the first two frames to beat Mark Rowing, of Doncaster, 5-3 and Peter Ebdon won 5-3 against Pat Horne, a Belgian-based Liverpoolian who is ranked No 221 in the world, after trailing 3-2.

Aiming high

Shooting: Ken Chard, a Devon gunsmith, leads the Great Britain target rifle team to the West Indies today on a six-match tour that includes the Benson and Hedges tournament and centennial matches in Jamaica.

TEAM: Great Britain: K Chard (Devon), E Molynous (Surrey), P Jacques (Staffs), V Carpenter (Devon), L Butler (Surrey), M Bristow (Sussex), D Jones (London), A Henderson (Berks), P Johnson (Herts) and Wessman (Worcesters).
Squad: A van Kesteren (London), T Newbold (Staffs), L Orpen-Smiley (Essex), N Stanger (Norths), A Tucker (Surrey).

Snow shines

Real tennis: Julian Snow, the world No 1 amateur, of Great Britain, and Sam Howe, the veteran American, won the British Lawn Tennis Association doubles championship by beating Nigel Pendrigh and James Acheson-Gray, the No 2 seeds, 6-0, 5-6, 6-5, 6-4 at Moreton Morrell.

Smith steps up

Cricket: Robin Smith, the England batsman, has been appointed the vice-captain of Hampshire.

Turks ready to dig deep for Dalglish

By DAVID MADDOCK

KENNY DALGLISH began a two-week holiday in Florida on Saturday. On his return, however, his leisurely pace will be disrupted by the news that Besiktas are willing to offer him at least £500,000 a year to be their manager. The director of football at Blackburn Rovers will also learn that his employer is not overjoyed.

Jack Walker, the Blackburn owner, suggested strongly yesterday that Dalglish will be refused leave to talk to the Turkish club. He has, he said, worked hard to create a structure at Ewood Park in which Dalglish is an intrinsic part. "Kenny is not leaving this club," Walker said. "He is an important part of the future here."

Suleyman Seba, the Besiktas president, thinks otherwise. He confirmed his interest in the Scot yesterday and explained that a formal approach would follow when Dalglish returns. His club, he said, has the financial muscle to tempt the most reluctant of targets.

"We had a very successful English manager here at the club for six years, in Gordon Milne, and we asked him to recommend to us the best manager in England. He said

it was Kenny Dalglish, and he is the man we want. We will be in a position to offer him a very attractive package, because we want the best," Seba said.

Dalglish is unlikely to accept, but the Istanbul side, third in the Turkish league and a former club of Les Ferdinand, will make their approach nonetheless. "We will make our offer and wait to see his reaction," Seba added.

Scott Hiley, the Manchester City full back, learnt yesterday that he has fractured his ankle in three places and will miss the rest of his club's programme as they attempt to remain in the FA Cup Premier League. It was, he said, a devastating setback, tempered only by one stroke of good fortune.

"The doctor has told me that I must keep a plaster cast on until the end of May," he said. "It's a terrible blow — I can't believe my bad luck because I had only just got into the side. But at least I had signed a three-year contract with City two days before I picked up the injury."

Hiley had been on an extended loan from Birmingham City and had not been due to discuss a contract until the end of the season.

Paris hope Tongan will pack a punch

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

PARIS Saint-Germain's cosmopolitan rugby league squad has been augmented by Kava Utokamanu, the Tongan prop forward, for the Stones Super League encounter with London Broncos at The Valley, Charlton, tomorrow.

Utokamanu, a former professional boxer in the United States and a formidable 6ft 5in and 18½ stone, represented Tonga in the World Nines in Fiji in February. "He'll certainly bring some power to our pack and I believe he has a tremendous future in the game," Tas Baitieri, the Paris general manager, said.

"He only arrived in Paris on Saturday night and he'll be having a run-out before we finally get down to naming our side for the match in London. He's in the squad and we'll certainly be hoping to give him a run-out against the Broncos."

Paris, who included an Australian, a New Zealander, a Moldavian and a Pole as well as their Frenchmen, stylishly accounted for Sheffield Eagles in their opening game last

Friday, but a match that will put the winners briefly on top of the league presents a good test of the new side's ability to travel well.

Baitieri believes that Paris must guard against complacency after their 30-24 victory over Sheffield. "Obviously it was a great against-the-odds victory, but we must not get carried away by such a result," he said. "We still have a number of weaknesses in the team and we have got a great deal of work to do. It's going to be extremely difficult against London."

Evan Cochrane was a casualty of London's battling win away to Halifax Blue Sox last Saturday, and an aggravated rib injury is expected to keep him out for two weeks. Tulen Tollett switches to centre, and Duncan McRae assumes the stand-off half role. Shaun Keating will figure in the second row with a strapped broken finger, and Gavin Allen, the prop, has recovered from illness.

Phil Clarke, the Great Britain and former Wigan back-row forward, was discharged from hospital in Sydney yesterday, three days after he fractured his fourth vertebra in three places while playing for Sydney City Roosters against North Queensland. He suffered no neurological damage and the club hopes that he will play again, though not this season.

His father, Colin, a former Great Britain hooker, who was travelling to Australia at the time the accident occurred, said: "The subject of whether Phil will play again this year or in the future has not been discussed. We are just happy he is going to be all right."

McCracken facing test of character

By SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

ROBERT MCCrackEN can establish himself as a world middleweight title contender, alongside his stablemate, Richie Woodhall, of Telford, when he defends his Commonwealth boxing title against Paul Busby, of Worcester, at York Hall, Bethnal Green, tonight. Though unbeaten in 25 contests, McCracken has so far failed to live up to the promise of four years ago, when he won the World Cup silver medal.

Weight problems at lightweight and, recently, a kidney infection, were seized upon by his followers to excuse his poor showing against opponents he should have beaten easily. Many thought he was lucky to lift the Commonwealth title, against Fitzgerald Bruney, of Canada.

Now, having recovered from his illness and boxing at a more comfortable weight, McCracken will be expected to give a good performance tonight. Even though Busby is not in his class, if the champion is unprepared in any way, the Worcester man could expose him. The two have a common opponent in Paul Wesley, McCracken struggled to hold on to his British light-middleweight title against Wesley, while Busby had no trouble in outboxing him.

McCracken has beaten some good men but the punches that once disposed of his opponents quickly do not appear to carry the same power anymore. He will almost certainly have to go the distance against Busby and the result could be a close one.



Clarke: discharged

Save £35 on tickets to see the Broncos

THE London Super League rugby season kicks off with its first home game tomorrow against Paris Saint Germain. The Times is offering readers the opportunity to buy a season ticket for the Broncos' home games for £75, saving £35 off the normal season ticket price of £110.

You can be in at the beginning of this exciting sport which is taking off in a big way, led by the London Broncos who won their first game against Halifax last week. The Broncos' ground at Charlton Athletic football club's ground, The Valley, in southeast London, is easy to get to and besides being a fast sport all the family can enjoy. Super League rugby provides entertainment before the kick-off and at half-time.

With your season ticket you get:

- reserved seats for 11 home games (including two FREE games); a commemorative T-shirt; London Broncos' cap and no queuing for tickets

See forward Darren Shaw, above, in action tomorrow.

CALL THE SEASON TICKET CREDIT CARD HOTLINE
0181 776 6670



TODAY'S FIXTURES

| FOOTBALL | |
|---|--|
| Kick-off 7.30p unless stated | |
| European Cup | |
| Semi-final, first leg | |
| Ajax v Panathinaikos | |
| Juventus v Nantes | |
| FA Cup Premier League | |
| Leeds v Southampton (7.45) | |
| Liverpool v Newcastle (8.0) | |
| Endelberg Insurance League | |
| First division | |
| Stoke v Wolverhampton (7.45) | |
| Second division | |
| Swindon v Brighton (7.45) | |
| Sheff Wed v Barnsley | |
| Bath v Shrewsbury (7.45) | |
| Spalding Challenge Cup | |
| Semi-finals, second leg | |
| Macclesfield (4) v Southport (4) (7.45) | |
| Kettering (10) v Bromsgrove (2) (7.45) | |
| BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division | |
| Walsall v Northampton (7.45) | |
| Midland division | |
| Dudley Town v Grantham: Solihull v Bury Town | |
| Southern division: Farnham v Farnham | |
| DRAGON LEAGUE: Semi-final | |
| second leg: Bardon v Salisbury | |
| KCS LEAGUE: Premier division: Molesey v Northfleet (7.45) | |
| UNION LEAGUE: Premier division | |
| Woking v Enfield, first division: Bradford PA v Wetherby | |
| AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Charlton v Chelsea (7.0) | |
| Crystal Palace v Portsmouth (at Dagenham Stadium, 7.0) | |
| Leeds v Arsenal v Luton (8.0) | |
| Southampton, Oxford Utd v Wimbledon: Walsall v Queens Park Rangers (8.0) | |
| Second division: Bournemouth v Barnsley Torquay v Plymouth (7.0) | |
| PONTING CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Bolton v Sheffield Utd (7.0) | |
| Oldham v Rochdale v Walsley (7.0) | |
| Wendecy v Leeds: Second division: Bradford v Barnsley (7.0) | |
| Barnley v Rotherham (7.15) | |
| Grimby v York (7.0) | |
| Leeds v Bradford (7.0) | |
| Sunderland (at Wigan Albion FC, 7.0) | |
| Manchester v Huddersfield (7.0) | |
| Preston v Hull (7.0) | |
| LEAGUE OF WALES: Top teams v Aberystwyth: Cup: Semi-final, first leg: Ebbw Vale v Barry Town | |
| FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Seacombe Red Star v West Auckland: Green Cup: Third round: Brandon v Arington: Shotton Cornhill v Horden CW | |
| ENGLISH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Massey Farnham v Colchester | |
| MINERS' SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: First division: Rotherham v Barnsley: Premier division: Rotherham v Barnsley | |
| HEREFORD SPORTS UNITED COUNTRIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Rotherham v Barnsley | |
| NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Brigg Town v Armit: Doncaster v Maltby MW: Hales v Hallfield Main | |
| WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Dartford v Thamesmead | |

RACING RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Nottingham

Going: good to soft, good in places

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Andrew Longmore on the Newcastle manager's toughest examination

Keegan's vision faces Anfield test

In the dim and distant past, Kevin Keegan knew the definition of a small match. Away to Cambridge United, sitting on the bus trying to persuade his demoralised team that they were the best when he knew the door would be revolving at the end of the season. Just another fixture on the list.

Such anonymity would be a treasured luxury for Newcastle United this season, when closing the doors to the press, as they did before the Manchester United match, has been the only guarantee of peace. Even by their dramatic standards, however, Newcastle's visit to Anfield tonight has a certain call to it. Black-and-white among the reds. It is a game Liverpool have to win and Newcastle must not lose; and it had to be at Anfield, home of a dynasty Keegan helped to create and which he is now trying to emulate in the North East.

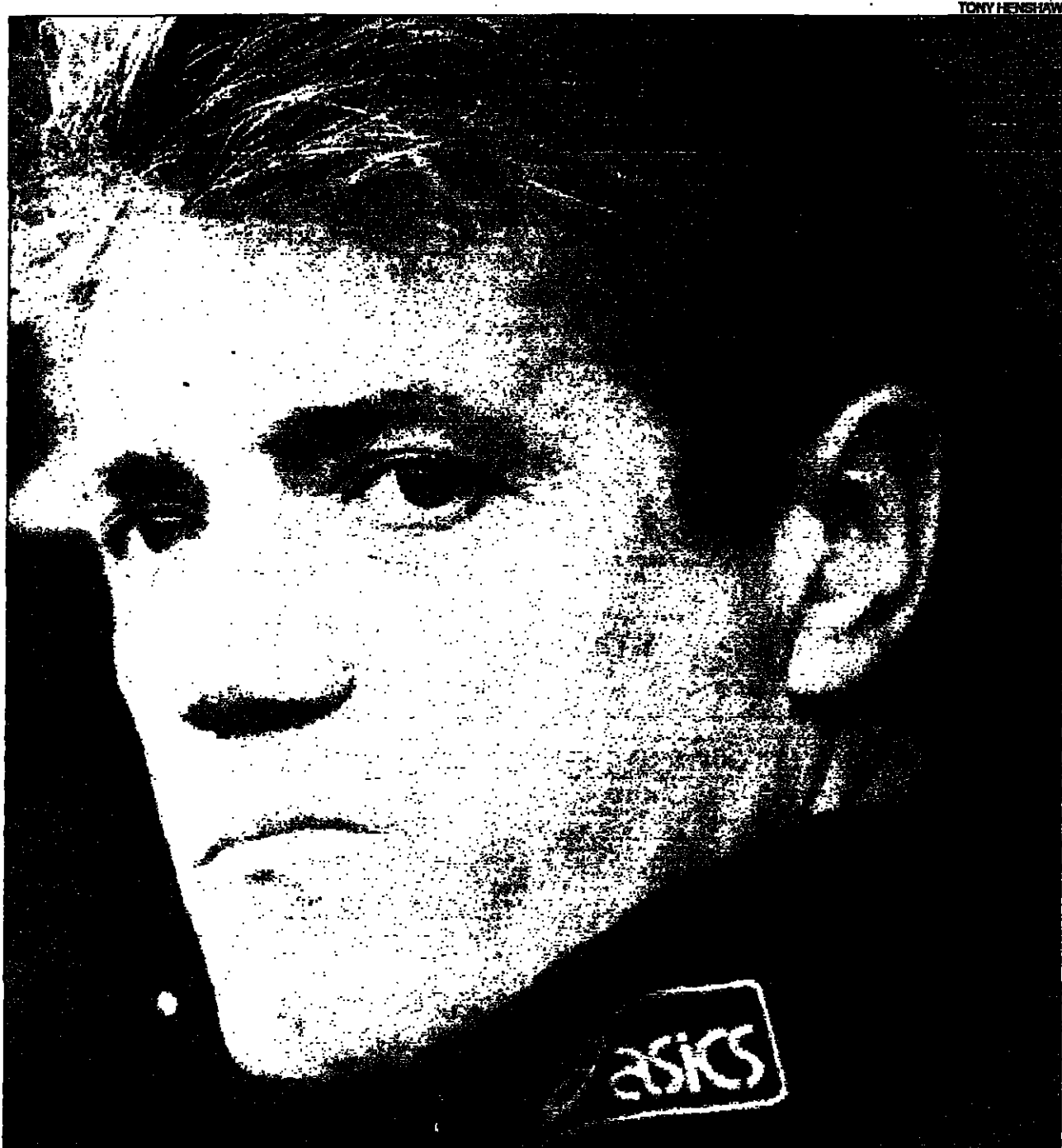
More than just three points are at stake here. Keegan's omniscience is on the line, and his vision that a team can win the FA Cup Premiership playing more from the heart than the head. All season, Newcastle have dazzled opponents with a brand of football fashioned by Keegan's appreciation of style and the Geordies' own understanding of how the game should be played.

Keegan recalled the day when Newcastle were clapped off the field after being beaten 4-1 by Fulham. "I nearly strangled one of our players who said it had been a great game. But he was right. Newcastle fans say: 'Let's have a great game' first and then: 'Let's hope we win.' That's why they deserve this team."

The philanthropy might change for tonight, though. Any win would do. If the supporters believe their manager is about to renege on his side of the deal, however, their judgment is as wayward as their team's recent form. Even though Newcastle have begun to founder like Crisp on the Aintree run-in, Keegan is too far down the track now to start switching horses. Newcastle will win or lose the Premiership with the swagger they have shown all season.

"There has been no temptation to compromise from me," Keegan said. "It's where I'll probably be criticised if I lose it. People will say I went kamikaze all over the place. But with the players I've bought, I'm committed to playing that way. You don't buy a dog and bark yourself."

I could say to Albert [Newcastle's Belgian international: Philippe]. I know you're fantastic with the ball and great going forward but I don't want you to do that. I want you to stand back here and defend. He could do that, but I would lose 50 per cent of what I bought him for. What I've



Keegan is determined to maintain his footballing principles as the Premiership title race reaches its conclusion

said to the others, to Batty, is: 'You know what he's like, he could go wandering if we're 1-0 up with five minutes left. You drop in there for him.' When Don Howe was coaching the defence with England, I knew what he was trying to do but I lost interest after a few minutes.

"People say we can't win the Premiership playing that way. I say: 'Why not? Because no one else has?' There is this feeling that you have to be dour, defensive and well-disciplined to win the title. [Manchester] United broke that to an extent, but if we do it, perhaps others will play like us, with more attackers and defenders, if you like."

"I see international defenders cross the halfway line and retreat as the ball is going the other way. I don't think that's football. I'm not going to ask Ginola and Asprilla to defend. I want to challenge people to play us because we try to pass it at a pace other teams cannot

live with: like the first half against Manchester United, and West Ham. There is not a side in the country who can do it."

Keegan has relished the idea that Newcastle have become the people's team. At times, he has felt like a ringmaster bringing his circus to town, except, as he memorably put it after defeat at Old Trafford, when the lions and tigers fail to show up. The question is whether the arrival of Faustino Asprilla, a trapeze artist, has unbalanced the whole act.

"We're still finding out exactly what he can do. We know already he can do things no one in the country can do. We

know he'll give the ball away and we know he'll create chances. He's very intelligent, has picked up some quite complicated routines in training very quickly. I bought him as cover for Les Ferdinand because he is used to playing with his back to goal. But he's asking some different questions too, which will make Les a better player. I don't know how they will work together. It's like a kaleidoscope. You put Asprilla in and turn the handle and find new patterns, new colours."

"I've read all that about him unbalancing the side. But he couldn't. No one can. The players make it easy for him. From outside, people say: 'I bet

someone's gutted they're going to be out of the side', and deep down someone probably is, but characters like Beardsley, Lee, Howey don't see anyone as a threat. It's not as if we're bringing in a kid from the third division. Players like Asprilla and Batty don't have to win respect. They already have it."

Last week was a frustrating one for a man who likes to get on with things. His players scattered to all parts on international duty, leaving Keegan to pick up the pieces of an abject defeat by Arsenal. Worse, he had to tell a group of fresh-faced Youth Training Scheme boys that their dreams were over, the most

hated task for any manager. "You just have to be honest with them," he said. "But it's a horrible job." Keegan took refuge from his troubles on the squash court, in odd games of head tennis and dug deep into the well of his naturally positive spirit.

At a business conference in Nottingham recently, one of his fellow speakers divided the audience into four types of characters, denoted by different coloured hats: red for fiery, blue for calm and so on. Keegan was a yellow hat. "Positive, entrepreneurial, outgoing," he said. "There were some faults too, but I can't remember them. The point was I know which hat I am, but I also have to notice what colour hat the player coming to see me is. If he's red, I've got to put on my red hat to understand him." One local journalist has already suffered from Keegan's ability to see red. He was banned from the daily press conferences after

"There has been no temptation to compromise from me"

an article had accused Terry McDermott, Keegan's assistant, of being a liar.

Keegan's library is stocked with books on motivation and management. He talks lucidly about "paradigm shifts" (changing patterns of behaviour), quotes anecdotes from Covey's *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* and effortlessly relates those principles to his own business of winning football matches. "What are the two ways of having the biggest building in town? You can either build your own higher than anyone else's or knock everyone else's down. That's what we're trying to do in football, isn't it? Build ours up, knock Manchester United's down." Or Liverpool's.

What marks Keegan out from some of his contemporaries is his honesty. His sense of perspective sharpened during eight years out of the game. Refreshingly, he does not pretend to know all the answers. Another of his favourite handbooks is entitled *70-80 Management Problems Solved*. Tonight could go a long way towards solving the 81st: How to keep your nerve and win the Premiership title.

RADIO CHOICE

A universal tug-of-war

Science and Wonders: God and the Cosmos. Radio 4, 7.20pm.

Professor Russell Stannard begins his five-part series about the centuries-old tug-of-war between science and theology with his own, and other experts', theories about the origins of the universe. I felt comfortable listening to him because he is both Christian and scientist. If dogmatism creeps in occasionally, it doesn't come from him. You can't prove or disprove the existence of a designer God, him. You can't prove or disprove the great cosmic movie a someone says tonight. If we could rerun the great cosmic movie a second time, someone else says, we probably wouldn't have *Homo sapiens* or even the Earth itself. I didn't much care for the way one physical scientist describes the human race as "a bit of slime on a planet going round the Sun."

Sonata. Classic FM, 6.30pm.

I can't establish for sure whether Frederick II, King of Prussia, was the only monarch to play flute duets with his manservant. He was seven at the time, and it happened in secret. His stormy father had forbidden him such effeminate excesses because he feared they would divert his thoughts from military matters. All prohibitions ended when the old King died. Between bouts of solidifying Frederick II composed music, especially for the flute. He had a poor opinion of German singers: "I should as soon expect to get pleasure from the neighing of my horse," he said. Tonight we hear his horseless C major sonata, with Rachel Brown on flute. Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo, 4.00am Charlie Jordan 6.30 Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa 'Anon', incl at 12.30-12.45pm News and at 1.15 the Net 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Chris Warren, incl at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat, and 6.15 the Net 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 Radio 1 Top with Kid Tempo and the Ganges 10.00 John Peel Midnight Wendy Lloyd, incl at 12.15am The Net

RADIO 2

FM Stereo, 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.15 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce, incl at 10.00 Pick of the Hits 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thompson 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Jim Lloyd with Folk on 2 8.00 Bluespace Partridge (14) 8.30 Leaders Tapes (20) 9.00 Celine Dion 9.30 9.30 Night Ogden 10.30 The Jamesons 12.05am Steve Merden 3.00-5.00am Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme incl 6.55, 7.55 racing preview 8.35 The Magazine with Dana MacRae, incl 10.35 Euronews 11.30 Wildlife News 12.00 Midday with Mel, incl at 12.30pm Moneycheck, and at 1.15 Entertainment News 2.05 Ruscio On Five, incl at 3.05 Ruscio Returns; 3.45 Entertainment News 4.30 John Inverdale, incl at 5.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.20 sport 7.35 Trevor Brooking's Football Night 10.00 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, incl at 11.15 Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Wan 7.00 Simon Bates 10.00 Jonathan King 12.00 Tomlin Boyd 2.00pm Anna Raczburg 4.00 Scott Chesham 7.00 Sean Bolger 10.00 James White 1.00-6.00am Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. 5.00am News 5.30 Europe 6.00 News 6.30 Europe 7.00 News 7.15 World Today 7.30 Megamix 8.00 News 8.15 On the Shelf 9.00 Discovery 9.00 News in German 9.15 Concert Hall 10.00 News 10.05 Business 10.15 Andy Kershaw 10.45 Sport 11.00 News 11.30 BBC English 11.45 On the Shelf 12.00 News 12.30pm Drama: Ties 1.00 News in German 1.20 Composer 2.00 News 3.00 News 3.05 Outlook 3.20 News 4.00 News 4.05 Sport 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News in German 5.00 Europe 5.30 Business Report 5.45 Britain 6.00 News 6.10 World 6.20 Science 6.30 News in German 7.00 News 7.30 Discovery 8.00 News 9.00 News 9.01 Outlook 9.25 Words of Faith 9.30 Multitrack 10.00 News 10.05 Business Report 10.15 11.30 World 11.45 Sport 2.00 News 12.00am Science 12.15 Country Style 12.30 Multitrack 1.00 News 1.05 Britain Our Own Correspondent 1.45 Britain 2.00 News 2.30 Outlook 2.55 Word of Faith 3.00 News 3.30 Assignment 4.00 News 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Mike Read 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Michael How and 2.00pm Concerto Saint-Saëns (Cello Concerto No 1 in A minor 3.00 Jamie Cull 6.00 News 6.30 Sonata. See Choice 7.00 Gardening Forum (1) 8.00 BBC Radio 4: Rannu Chorus, Caster (at Polka), Bach (Orchestral Suite No 1 in C, BWV 1066), Telemann (Modest Happiness), Handel (Water Music Suite No 1 in F, HWV 290) 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Joni 8.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nicky Home 7.30 Paul Coyle 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00-6.00am Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air: Bervald (Symphony No 3 in c); Brahms (Cello Sonata No 1 in E minor); Couperin (Le Penitence, ou l'apothéose de Corélie); Ginia (Memory of a Summer Night in Madrid); Weber (Andante e rondo ungarese); Martini (La Revue de cuisine)
9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini, Stravinsky (Ebony Concerto); Gomes (Variation sur superba oiseau, II Guesny); Stravinsky (Ballet, Putiput)
10.00 Musical Encounters. Includes Chopin (Scherzo No 3 in C sharp minor); Bach, an Vabam (Ricercar a 6, Musical Offering); Whittam (Horn Quartet); 10.35 Artist of the Week: Dawn Upshaw, soprano, Massenet (Chérubin); Haydn (Symphony No 46 in B); Weber (Adagio and Rondo in F); Bach (Cantata No 55, Ich will den Kreuzstab gerne tragen)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Schubert, The Grob Household and the Schubertists
1.00pm Birmingham Lulltime Concerto, live from Studio One, Rabbie Mill, Neil Jenkins, tenor, and David Owen Norris, piano, perform Schumann (Dichterliebe)
2.00 Double Your Chances. Includes Chopin (Ballade No 1 in G minor); Schubert (Du bist die Ruh); Mithrid (Le Bœuf sur le toit)
4.00 Choral Vespers, live from Westminster Cathedral
5.00 The Music Machine explores musical terminology
5.15 In Tune with Andrew Green. Smetana (Overture, The Bartered Bride), Mendelssohn (Valse des Sylphes)
6.00 BBC Radio 3: Concerto, live from Wigmore Hall, Barbara Bonney, soprano, and Malcolm Martineau, piano perform Copland (12 Poems of Emily Dickinson, Barber (Four Songs, Op 13); Prokofiev (Miss Saitta Chism Remembered Billy the Kid)
7.00 Cookbooks. The first of five sequences of dance music from 1920-1945 (1)
7.30 BBC Philharmonic under Richard Hickox, with Jonathan Carney, violin, Ingrid Artzt, soprano, Pamela Helen Steven, contralto, Nigel Robson, tenor, Stephen Varcoe, baritone, Leeds Philharmonic Chorus, Edgar (Overture, Frossart), Vaughan Williams (The Lark Ascending), Stanford (Te deum in E flat, Op 10; Stabat Mater, Op 98)
8.55 Cultural Baggage: Pilgrim The series on cultural icons looks at the pilgrim (18)
9.15 The Formidable Vespers: Herr Silber, Andrew Manze talks to George Pratt
10.00 Voices: On the Road, Ian Burnside takes to the road with some minimalist songs
10.45 Night Waves. Christopher Cook previews the Cityscape season at the National Film Theatre
11.30 Composer of the Week: Rubbra (1)
12.30-1.00am Jazz Notes with Digby Fairweather. The first of two excerpts from a concert given by the Best of British Jazz under Kenny Baker

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News: Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today. With John Humphrys and James Naughtie, incl 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day, with John Newbury 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather Times columnist Libby Purves and guests
9.00 News 9.05 Midweek, with Times columnist Libby Purves and guests
10.00-10.30 News: A Retiring Fellow (FM only). William Donaldson, author, inquisitor and wine bar philosopher begins a four-part quest for a suitable haven for his retirement
10.00 Daily Service (LW only) 10.15 This Scepter'd Isle (LW only) 10.30 Woman's Hour introduced by Jenni Murray. Claudia Hammond investigates a theory that a person's real age isn't necessarily the same as the number of birthdays they have had
11.30 Gardeners' Question Time (1)
12.00 News: You and Yours with Lesley Riddoch
12.25pm Naughtie's Eye View: Facts of Life. Somerset Maugham's short stories, narrated by Dirk Bogarde (56)
12.58 Weather
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (1)
1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News: Young PC by Mark Davies Markham (53)
2.45 Treasure Islands with Michael Rosen at the National Conference of the National Federation of Children's Book Groups
3.00 News: The Afternoon Shift
4.00 News: 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Postcard Emily reports on the film Small Faces. Plus a look back at the career of controversial director Pier Paolo Pasolini
4.45 Short Story: Slow Release by David Self. Read by Michael Tudor Barnes
5.00 PM with Chris Lowe and Jackie Henderson 5.28 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Concerto (18)
7.00 News: 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Science and Wonders. See Choice
8.05 Out of the Fire: Vincent Magombe presented by John Simpson (8/6) (1)
8.35 True Encounters. Last of the series of real-life dramas based on the casebook of psychiatrist Irvin Yalom
9.00 Costing the Earth 9.30 Kaleidoscope (1) 9.59 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight with Isabel Hilton
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Stalin's Notes by Rory MacLean (310)
11.00 Late Night Opening begins with Fab TV. Final part of the comedy series; 11.30 Paradise Lost in Space (FM only) by Colin Swash (1)
11.30 Today in Parliament (LW only)
12.00 News incl 12.27am Weather 12.30 The Late Book: Devil in a Blue Dress by Walter Leary (11/10) 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-98.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6. LW 196; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 683, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 646; LW 198 (12.45-6.55pm). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1059, 1088. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

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| | £3.40 | £11.34 | £7.05 | £6.56 | £8.77 | £5.23 | £9.94 | £3.40 | £2.59 | £8.25 |
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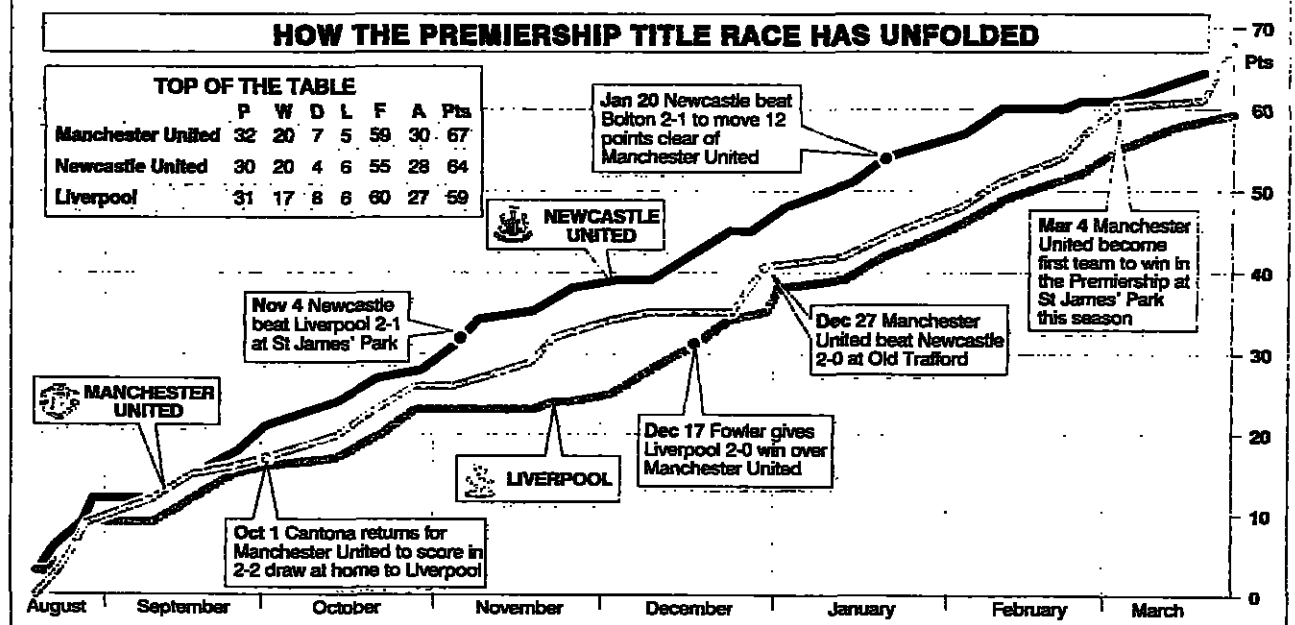
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| Manchester United | Newcastle United | Liverpool |
|---|--|---|
| Apr 6: Manchester City (a), Apr 8: Coventry City (h), Apr 13: Southampton (a), Apr 17: Leeds United (a), Apr 27: Nottingham Forest (h), May 5: Middlesbrough (a). | Today: Liverpool (a), Apr 8: Queens Park Rangers (h), Apr 8: Blackburn Rovers (a), Apr 14: Aston Villa (h), Apr 17: Southampton (h), Apr 27: Leeds United (a), May 5: Tottenham Hotspur (h). | Today: Newcastle United (h), Apr 6: Coventry City (a), Apr 8: West Ham (h), Apr 16: Everton (a), Apr 27: Middlesbrough (h), May 1: Arsenal (a), May 5: Manchester City (a). |

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 39

FEWMETS
(b) The excrement (of a deer), also *fumets*. From the Anglo-French *fumer*, representing the Latin *fumare* to dung. Ben Jonson. *The Sad Shepherd*, 1637: "By his fewmets he doth promise sport."

FOGGAGE
(a) The pasturing of cattle on "fog", the privilege of doing this. *Fog* is the grass which springs up immediately after the hay crop has been taken off, the aftermath. The Welsh *ffwg* dry grass, often given as the source, comes from the English. "The foggage of the Bishop's forest of Biss."

FOREL
(c) A kind of parchment dressed to look like vellum, used for covering books (now only account books, and they are mostly on screen). Also a case or covering in which a book or manuscript is kept. From the Old French diminutive of *forre* a case or sheath. *State Papers of Henry VIII*: "His letters shall be enclosed in a forel directed to the Treasurer."

PELLOCK
(b) The porpoise (*Phocaena communis*). Origin obscure. The Gaelic *peileag* appears to be from Lowland Scottish. Walter Scott, *The Fair Maid of Perth*, 1828: "Gambolling like pellock amongst the waves."

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Universal
of-war

WORLD SERVICE

CLASSIC

WORLDWIDE RADIO

CLASSIC

Young doctors' return sets hearts fluttering

The return of *Cardiac Arrest* (BBC1) was a worry. The first series I had loved — one of the most energetic, refreshing and funny dramas in a long time. The second, however, I took such an enormous initial dislike to that it took virtually the entire run to get back on speaking terms. The only thing that got me through to the last episode was the romantic two-step danced by the career-weary Mr Docherty and his sympathetic secretary, Mrs Trimble. Well, thank heavens they did, because last night's opening episode was splendid, holding out the promise that series three will be very good indeed. In style, it now looks more like its American counterpart, *ER*, than ever but it is none the worse for that. Anyone confused can simply apply the beverage test. In *ER* they grab a coffee in times of crisis. In *Cardiac Arrest* they have a nice cup of tea. On the evidence of episode one,

relationships will be very much to the fore in this series. The difficulty, given the frantic pace set by Audrey Cooke, the director, will be keeping up with them. The starting position, however, appears to be this. The beautiful but deadly Claire Maitland (Helen Baxendale) is still playing hide the stethoscope with the ghostly surgeon, Adrian DeVries (Jack Fortune). This has upset her former squeeze, Scissors Smedley (Peter O'Brien), the Australian medic who spent the last series roller-skating along the hospital corridors in search of a character and — praise be — finally appears to have found one. We left him last night seeking — but so far not finding — solace in the arms of Sister Novak (Jacqueline May).

As for our original anti-hero, Andrew Collin (Andrew Lancel), he is still grabbing the occasional moment of extra-marital passion with Nurse Richards (Jayne McKenzie). That still leaves Docherty and Mrs Trimble, of course, but in common with about half the regular cast they did not grace last night's episode. I missed them — but with a company of 20, cramming everyone into half an hour was always going to be impossible.



Matthew Bond

Curiously, we began not with one of the most famous theme tunes in television history (they made us wait seven minutes for that) but with Colin Welland banging on, while *Teletar* de-dee-dee in the background. Thankfully, however, things improved rapidly. But for all that this montage of anecdotes and black and white clips was enjoyable, it was hardly comprehensive. Had it been titled *Z Cars: The Early Years* or even *The Early Year* it would have been more accurate. Apart from a glimpse of the star-studded final episode (you remember — everybody came to say goodbye to Bert Lynch — rather tearful) and an awful reminder of what they did to the theme tune in the 1970s, we barely got out of 1962. That was the start, but it will not be how many people remember a series that ran for 16 years.

As ever it proved impossible to agree with Welland for long. He was right about the quality of the scripts ("a lesson in how to write television scripts") but he was surely wrong when he provocatively concluded: "There's no equivalent, before or since, and it's a great bloody shame."

The obvious and worthy successor in this country is *The Bill*, as some grainy footage of Newsworld's Sergeant Twentyman (the late Leonard Williams) revealed. The resemblance to Sun Hill's Sergeant Cryer (Eric Richard) was uncanny.

REVIEW

4) for *Without Walls*. But it was tough going, with a galaxy of ageing stars lining up to wax affectionate about the indisputably mould-breaking police series. Stratford Johns, Frank Windsor, James Ellis... they were all there, together with distinguished names such as Brian Blessed and Jeremy Kemp who made an early contribution to the series and then departed for greater things.

CHOICE

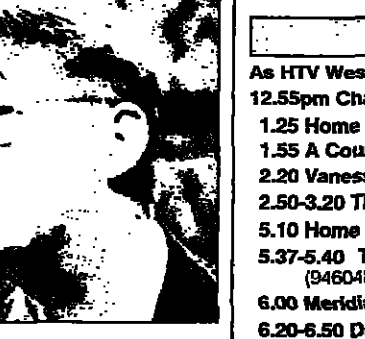
East: Last Among Equals (BBC2, 7.30pm) Mark Tully, a distinguished observer of India, launches a new season of the Asian current affairs programme. His object is to reveal the scandal (his word) of caste in the Christian Church. As always, his reporting is measured but pitiful. When the Christian missionaries came to India seeking converts, they claimed, with Jesus, to be on the side of the poor and oppressed. But the caste system which has permeated the Hindu religion was perpetuated by Christianity. The poorest Christians, the Dalits, the former Untouchables, were promised equality but never got it. The Dalits live in segregated areas, sit in different places in church and have separate burial grounds. Protest has been brutally suppressed. Christian priests and nuns working for the Dalit cause have been attacked and murdered.

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except: 6.25pm-6.50 Wales Tonight (328628) 10.00 The Time... the Place (Teletext) (2841425) 10.35 This Morning (44641425) 12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (6258661) 12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (3184222) 12.55 Shortland Street (s) (3192241) 1.25 Coronation Street (s) (5325883) 2.00 Home and Away (Teletext) (s) (5403408) 2.25 Chain Letters (Teletext) (s) (5404083) 2.50 Vanessa (Teletext) (s) (4383537) 2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (3012852) 3.25 Regional News (7140883) 3.30 Alphabet Castle (s) (s) (8286067) 3.40 Wizards (s) (7001338) 3.50 Twinkle the Dream Being (s) (7090222) 4.00 Garfield and Friends (2283999) 4.20 How 2 (Teletext) (6995993) 4.40 Spellbinder (Teletext) (5767357) 5.10 A Country Practice (s) (7278834) 5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (754593) 6.00 Home and Away (Teletext) (s) (234715) 6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (328628) 6.50 Wish You Were Here... Judith Chalmers visits the Caribbean island of Antigua to see how it has recovered from last year's hurricane damage. John Carter is in Dublin to visit literary pubs; and Martin Roberts tests tennis in Brittany (Teletext) (s) (475135) 7.20 Champions League Live: Ajax v Panathinaikos. Live coverage of tonight's semi-final first-leg match of the European Cup Winners' Cup (8548425)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except: 12.55 Home and Away (3192241) 1.25 Chain Letters. Word game with cash prizes, presented by Vince Henderson (7952777) 1.55 A Country Practice (44913661) 2.20 Vanessa (54032864) 2.50-3.20 Our House (4386357) 3.10-3.40 Shortland Street (7278834) 6.25-6.50 Central News and Weather (328628) 12.10am Beyond Reality: A Kiss is Just a Kiss (1988084) 1.45 Dear Nick (709926) 2.45 The Good Sex Guide... Late (3953365) 3.40 Jones and Jury (83268766) 4.00 Jobfinder (5991346) 5.20 Asian Eye (1443810) 6.00 Meridian Tonight (318241) 6.20-6.50 Doing It Up (210135) 10.40 A Girl Called Georgina (324970) 11.10-11.40 Desmond: Oliver Dingle's Guide to the Prudential Awards (951574) 5.00am Freescreen (99520)



Kevin Kennedy as Curly (9.30pm)

9.30 Coronation Street. Will Curly tell Maureen the truth about Reg's activities? (Teletext) (52777) 10.00 News and weather (Teletext) (45699) 10.30 Regional News (Teletext) (594203) 10.40 In Suspicious Circumstances. Edward Woodward presents two dramatised, real-life murders. No Witness. No Case. A tale of a gangster killing in Chicago. The location for *Poor Ellen* is Lancaster Castle, in 1911; a number of mysterious deaths have occurred (Teletext) (s) (502512) 11.40 Champions League Highlights (957932) 12.10am God's Gift (5781891) 1.10 Dear Nick (855381) 2.10 Bushell on the Box (s) (2321758) 2.10 ITV Sport Classics (5053907) 3.10 Murder, She Wrote (s) (9628425) 4.05 Coach (s) (4079074) 4.30 The Time... the Place (s) (20988) 5.00 Cover Story (s) (99520) 5.30 Morning News (55471)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: 12.55pm Chain Letters (3192241) 1.25 Home and Away (7952777) 1.55 A Country Practice (44913661) 2.20 Vanessa (54032864) 2.50-3.20 The Country Set (4386357) 3.10 Home and Away (7278834) 5.37-5.40 Three Minutes — Freescreen (946048) 6.00 Meridian Tonight (318241) 6.20-6.50 Doing It Up (210135) 10.40 A Girl Called Georgina (324970) 11.10-11.40 Desmond: Oliver Dingle's Guide to the Prudential Awards (951574) 5.00am Freescreen (99520)



Ian Wright on the Asian road (8.30pm)

8.30 [CHOICE] Lonely Planet: Central Asia, Kazakhstan and Kirghizia (Teletext) (s) (4048) 9.00 Dispatches: An investigation into the experimental administration of LSD on psychiatric patients (Teletext) (375491) 9.45 The Long Johns. In the last of the satire series, John Fortune and John Bird invite us to meet George Parr, director of a well-known think-tank (Teletext) (s) (867628) 10.00 ER. Benton's feud with Vuocolich escalates. (Teletext) (6116) 11.00 Friends. On Valentine's Day, and out on his first date in nine years, Ross meets his former wife. (Teletext) (s) (1113) 11.30 Cheers. Carla is convinced that the only way to stop the Boston Bruins ice hockey team's losing run is to stop dating the goalie (Teletext) (72680) 12.00 NBA XL. Coverage of the New York Knicks v Orlando (s) (411471) 1.55 FILM: Atlantic Adventure (1935, b/w) with Lloyd Nolan and Nancy Carroll. A newspaper reporter follows a suspected murderer aboard a liner bound for Europe. Directed by Albert Rogell (4563182). Ends at 3.10am

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (95319) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (59777) 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (7273512) 9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (7406574) 9.45 Kilroy (s) (1566067) 10.30 Good Morning (s) (25241) 12.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (6269777) 12.05pm Room for Improvement. DIY advice (s) (8047067) 12.35 Going for Gold with Henry Kelly (s) (3198425) 1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (52684) 1.30 Regional News and weather (94830222) 1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (4494068) 2.00 Michael Barry's Choice Cuts (s) (2455584) 2.15 Racing from Ascot. The 2.30, 3.05 and 3.35 races (s) (913375) 3.45 The Silver Brumby (s) (4127852) 4.10 Alvin and the Chipmunks (s) (3900330) 4.20 Jonny Briggs (s) (Ceefax) (6980845) 4.35 Rugrats (s) (Ceefax) (9877777) 5.00 Newsworld (Ceefax) (1380628) 5.10 Blue Peter (Ceefax) (s) (157932) 5.35 Neighbours (s) (Ceefax) (s) (238970) 6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (70) 6.30 Regional News magazines (22) 7.00 Relatively Speaking. Gordon Burns hosts a new, three-generation family game show involving verbal and other skills (Ceefax) (s) (8883) 7.30 Here and Now. Hard-hitting investigations (Ceefax) (s) (26) 8.00 Hearts of Gold. Esther Rantzen and Carol Smilie are joined by Lorraine Kelly and Ben Kingsley (Ceefax) (s) (571715) 8.50 Points of View. (Ceefax) (s) (602087) 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (2048) 9.30 Silent Witness: Sins of the Fathers. (2/2) Final episode of a drama series about a forensic pathologist, Dr Ryan, attempts to persuade Brian, her student, to reveal the whereabouts of her father to the police. Meanwhile Wyn pushes Sam's sisterly love to the limit. With Amanda Burton (Ceefax) (s) (753357) 10.25 Sportsnight. Introduced by Des Lynam. Football: highlights of the FA Carling Premiership match between Liverpool and Newcastle United; following a preview of this weekend's 142nd University Boat Race; Greyhound racing; a look ahead to next week's BBC1 Greyhound Trophy at Walthamstow. Olympics: final preparations for this year's Games in Atlanta (s) (645357) 12.00 The Road to Golgotha. Rob Duncan visits Luxuly Woods, in Cornwall, to reflect on Jesus's encounter with Pontius Pilate (s) (5595094) 12.15 FILM: American Blue Note (1989) with Peter MacNicol and Charlotte D'Amboise. A jazzman dreams of hitting the big time. Directed by Ralph Popcorn (Ceefax) (745617) 1.45am Weather (575287) WALES: 1.45 News headlines and weather (576257)

BBC2

6.00am Open University: Maths (7007222) 6.25 Science: Energy (7026357) 6.50 Composer and Audience: Tippett and Sondheim (800999) 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (418222) 7.30 The Record (s) (7963970) 7.58 Christopher Crocodile (s) (1783951) 8.00 Postman Pat (s) (7026749) 8.15 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (s) (Ceefax) (7229425) 8.40 The Lowdown (Ceefax) (s) (8227609) 9.05 Mighty Max (s) (7416951) 9.30 Ashtu (s) (Ceefax) (74999) 10.00 Playdays (s) (8251883) 10.25 Star Trek (s) (4556880) 10.50 The Tick (s) (1429322) 11.10 Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased) (s) (8192777) 12.00 Great Crimes and Trials of the 20th Century: The Escapes from Alcatraz (17116) 12.30pm Working Lunch (78715) 1.00 Postman Pat (s) (42186512) 1.15 Consuming Passions (1693845) 1.20 The Village of Jars. In Laos (3882086) 2.10 The Andrew Neil Show (s) (5478864) 3.00 News (Ceefax) (7134222) 3.05 Westminster with Nick Ross (Ceefax) (s) (7124357) 3.55 News (Ceefax) (2261796) 4.00 Today's Day (s) (35) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (19) 5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show: Privacy. Oprah hosts a show on privacy, a subject close to her heart. Caroline Kennedy, a victim of unwanted press attention, compiles a special report (Ceefax) (s) (8281393) 5.40 A Week to Remember (b/w) (139131) 5.50 More Secret Gardens. Longstock Park Gardens, near Stockbridge, Hampshire (954087) 6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (Ceefax) (570319) 6.45 Buck Rogers in the 25th Century (s) (718338) 7.30 [CHOICE] East: Last Among Equals (Ceefax) (s) (48) 8.00 University Challenge. Third quarter-final: Warwick v Newcastle (Ceefax) (s) (3195) 8.30 Mir and Mrs Walsh at home (8.30pm) 9.30 [CHOICE] Home Front. The TV/disco show returns (s) (2680) 9.00 [CHOICE] Modern Times: Saturday Night (Ceefax) (s) (747777) 9.50 A Man's World: The Worker. Documentary series about masculinity during the first half of the 20th century (s) (56) (Ceefax) (525203) 10.30 Newsnight. With Peter Snow (Ceefax) (519999) 11.15 Murder One (s) (Ceefax) (s) (948864) 12.00 The Midnight Hour with Andrew Neil (s) (34988) 12.30am-6.00 The Learning Zone: Open University (47033)

BBC3

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CHOICE

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Home Front

You will never catch Tessa Shaw without a smile on her face. Back to dispense more ideas for freshening up new homes, she exudes cheerfulness. If she recommended painting our walls and ceilings black, we might almost be charmed into doing it. First on Shaw's agenda is the kitchen. A MORI poll, much quoted in the programme, suggests it is the room most of us would most like to change. Anne McKevitt, an expert on the kitchen, explains the language and variety of the food. He nevertheless finds himself trying to swallow a sheep's eye when failure to do so would offend his hosts. Wright does not reveal mundane details, such as how much the trip cost him. You guess it was not a lot. But whether Wright's report will win converts, or lead viewers to decide that this rugged terrain is best sampled from the comfort of the sitting room, is a good question.

Lonely Planet

Central Asia in the first of a new series of off-beat travel assignments. As he roughs it through the former Soviet republics of Uzbekistan and Kirghizia, you have to envy him his youth and stamina. This is no coach trip to Eastbourne. Although he tends to play the Englishman abroad routine, Wright does show a commendable desire to grapple with the local culture. Ignorance of the language and wary of the food, he nevertheless finds himself trying to swallow a sheep's eye when failure to do so would offend his hosts. Wright does not reveal mundane details, such as how much the trip cost him. You guess it was not a lot. But whether Wright's report will win converts, or lead viewers to decide that this rugged terrain is best sampled from the comfort of the sitting room, is a good question.

Meridian

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S4C

Starts: 6.35 Fifteen to One (8074574) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (75715) 9.00 Saved by the Bell: The New Class (919048) 9.25 Gamesmaster (7412135) 9.55 California Dreams (6095222) 10.20 Mork and Mindy (6257067) 10.50 Dennis (4935241) 11.05 Extreme (9250777) 12.00 House to House (35512) 12.30pm A Box Full of Stories (63883) 1.00 Slot Methair (45674) 1.30 Film: That Night in Rio (8094767) 2.10 The Montel Williams Show (6134777) 4.00 Jimmy's (13) 4.30 Motormania (15) 5.00 5 Pump: Cellaigati (8501777) 5.15 5 Pump: Felli (1352645) 5.30 Film: The Last of the Mohicans (1991) 6.00 Newsnight (995337) 6.30 Newsnight (995337) 6.50 Newsnight (995337) 7.00 Newsnight (995337) 7.30 Newsnight (995337) 8.00 Newsnight (995337) 8.30 Newsnight (995337) 9.00 Newsnight (995337) 9.30 Newsnight (995337) 10.00 Newsnight (995337) 10.30 Newsnight (995337) 11.00 Newsnight (995337) 11.30 Newsnight (995337) 12.00 Newsnight (995337) 12.30 Newsnight (995337) 1.00 Newsnight (995337) 1.30 Newsnight (995337) 2.00 Newsnight 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Return of midfield player lifts Liverpool for Premiership showdown with Newcastle

Redknapp's role central to the plot

By PETER BALL

JAMIE REDKNAPP could not have chosen a better week to make his comeback after spending nearly five months on the injured list. After returning to the Liverpool team for the FA Cup semi-final victory on Sunday, he faces Newcastle United tonight in an FA Carling Premiership game at Anfield that is crucial for both clubs with the praise of Terry Venables, the England coach, ringing in his ears.

"We haven't given up on the league," Redknapp said after training at Melwood yesterday. "If we beat Newcastle we're back in it. This is a crucial part of the season and it is nice to be back in."

Venables is probably as pleased as his protégé to see Redknapp back, the young Liverpool player's return to fitness giving him further options in midfield. His value

'People say we can't win the Premiership playing our way. I say: "Why not? Because no one else has." With the players I've bought, I'm committed to playing that way. You don't buy a dog and bark yourself.'

Kevin Keegan, page 42

to Liverpool is demonstrated by their readiness to change a winning side to accommodate him, leaving out Michael Thomas. "I haven't lost my place, it's been taken away from me," Thomas said yesterday.

Sentiment has never had much place at Anfield, however, and Liverpool are aware of the importance of the match tonight for both teams — and for the Premiership leaders, Manchester United, although they would prefer to discount that. "This game is just as important as the semi-final," Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said yesterday.

"It is our best chance of pulling ourselves back into the race. It is like a Cup Final — if we win we're back in it; if we lose, I wouldn't say we are out of it, but it will then be very difficult for us."

A win for Newcastle would confirm their belief that they



Asprilla, the Newcastle United forward, relaxes during training in Durham yesterday for the Premiership encounter at Anfield tonight. Photograph: Raoul Dixon

are in the driving seat, leaving them level on points with Manchester United and with a game in hand. Victory for Liverpool would put them two points behind Newcastle and five behind Manchester United, who, for once, will be hoping for a victory for the Merseyside team.

"A win for us may suit [Manchester] United, but I'm not interested in that, all we can do is win our games,"

Evans said. With Fowler in his present mood, anything is possible, one of Venables's young lions having rescued Liverpool from a poor performance in the semi-final.

"We were bad on Sunday, we didn't put any passes together until the last five minutes," John Barnes, the Liverpool captain, said. It was not that bad, but David James, the goalkeeper, and Fowler made decisive contributions.

Fowler will want to do the same again tonight, especially as he has yet to score when Steve Howey has been marking him. James may hope for a quieter time at Anfield, even against Ferdinand, than he

had against Aston Villa on Sunday when he again demonstrated why he was picked for the Professional Footballers' Association Premiership select XI.

"We believe [James] is the best keeper in the country, and should be in the England squad," Evans said. "He is looking a worthy successor to Tommy Lawrence, Ray Clemence and Bruce Grobbelaar — he is potentially better than any of them."

James's performances are among the less-trumpeted reasons for Liverpool's long run of success. There are more obvious ones. "I don't think even Pelé would have got back

into the side, they were playing so well," Redknapp said after his spell watching from the bench as he waited for his chance.

Ironically, it was a rare error by James that gave Newcastle a win in the meeting at St James' Park in November, beginning a troubled month for Liverpool.

"The defeats by Brondby and Newcastle really took the wind out of our sails, because we didn't deserve to lose," Evans said. "With them [Newcastle] beating us in the Coca-Cola Cup tie as well, we've a couple of scores to settle."

Liverpool may have to make one change from the team that played on Sunday. Neil Ruddock injured a knee in training yesterday and will have a late test to see if he can play his last game before beginning a two-match suspension on Saturday. With Babb still injured, Steve Harkness will come in.

Newcastle have everyone fit and, reportedly, raring to go after their two-week break. In all, they have played only three games during the five weeks since signing David Batty. "We've had enough hanging about, we just want to get on with it," Batty, the midfield player recruited from

Blackburn Rovers, said. "It has been stop-start ever since I came to the club."

Those interruptions have not helped Newcastle to integrate Batty and Asprilla into the team and a defeat tonight would confirm suspicions that they are having their bad spell at the wrong time; that view receives little sympathy inside St James' Park. "People can write us off if they want," Terry McDermott, the Newcastle assistant manager, said. "The only answer is to win the championship. I think we will, we are good enough."

Tonight's match will reveal how well-founded McDermott's conviction is.

Brolin left
in sorry
state after
prank
backfires

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

TOMAS BROLIN has apologised to Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds United manager, after an April Fool's Day prank backfired. The Sweden striker, whose future at Elland Road is in doubt, told Swedish television reporters that he was going to finish the football season on loan to Norrköping.

It was meant to be a joke, with Brolin adding that he hoped to play for another team in Europe next season. However, the interview was picked up by news agencies and relayed around the world, much to the player's embarrassment. The result was a flurry of calls to Leeds officials late on Monday night, when the story broke in England.

Wilkinson, who paid Parma £4.5 million for Brolin in November, said yesterday: "I have spoken to Tomas, who gave permission for Swedish TV to conduct an April Fool's Day interview. He has been surprised by the stir it caused."

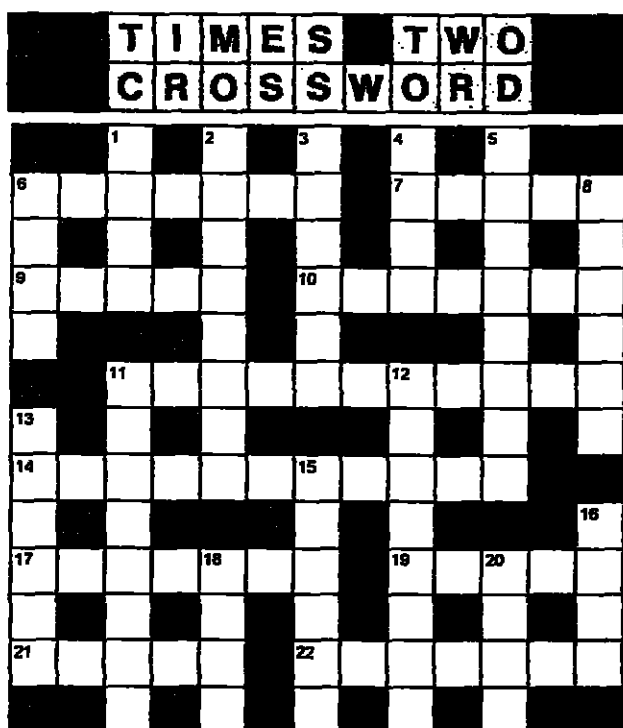
My chairman, Leslie Silver, managing director Bill Fotherby and myself all received calls about this on Monday night. Tomas has apologised to me and will apologise to the chairman and the managing director in person."

It is thought that Wilkinson may now have second thoughts about playing Brolin in the FA Carling Premiership match against Southampton at Elland Road tonight, although the decision will be taken out of his hands if Brolin fails to recover from the viral infection that ruled him out of the match against Middlesbrough last Saturday.

The latest incident is unlikely to prolong Brolin's future in England. He was disappointed not to have been given a place in the starting line-up against Aston Villa at Wembley in the Coca-Cola Cup final, and he has hardly figured in Wilkinson's plans since arriving.

The Football Association is to take no action against Lee Sharpe, of Manchester United, and Nicky Summerbee, of Manchester City, after a recent report in the *News of the World*. The clubs "have exonerated... [them] of any involvement with drug abuse," an FA spokesman said.

Hughes on brink, page 40
Dalglish in demand, page 40



No 746

ACROSS

- 6 Sheep breed; border hills (7)
- 7 Execute after kangaroo court (5)
- 9 Storehouse; bus garage (5)
- 10 A proved proposition (7)
- 11 Of huge, historic importance (5-6)
- 14 Act of unseemly conduct (11)
- 17 Made as integral part (5-2)
- 19 Raise objections (5)
- 21 Imbibe (5)
- 22 One rejected by society (7)

SOLUTION TO NO 745

ACROSS: 1 Gypsum 4 Obsess 8 Arid 9 Diplomat
10 Contumely 13 Faced 15 Angel 16 Put on 18 Irruption
21 Neurosis 22 Pout 23 Honest 24 Tatch

DOWN

- 1 Jump; long (year) (4)
- 2 Brilliant player (8)
- 3 Pain in side; loop of thread (6)
- 4 Fluid for sickling (4)
- 5 Atrocious action (8)
- 6 Secret language (4)
- 8 Giving of (deep) respects (6)
- 11 Spelled out (8)
- 12 Amusing story (8)
- 13 Arabian Nights sailor (6)
- 15 Haphazard (6)
- 16 Worry; part of guitar (4)
- 18 Help oneself to (4)
- 20 Water round castle (4)

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 741

In association with BRITISH MIDLAND
ACROSS: 1 Cut up rough 8 Wildcat 9 Treat 10 Ruin 11 Hispanic 13 Rugby 14 Saucy 16 Jeopardy 17 Mind 20 Canto 21 Imagery 22 Lederhosen
DOWN: 1 Cover 2 Talking point 3 Peck 4 Outwit 5 Gatepost 6 Mean business 7 Sticky 12 Sycamore 13 Reject 15 Advice 18 Doyen 19 Path

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Sri Lanka batsman smashes his
way to fastest one-day centurySimon Wilde applauds a rousing encore
to Jayasuriya's World Cup exploits

AS ONE of sport's most worn clichés goes, records are only there to be broken. But, when they are smashed in such spectacular style as that displayed by Sanath Jayasuriya yesterday, when he hit the fastest hundred in one-day international cricket, it would be careless of those in the game not to take special notice.

Few who played in or watched the World Cup earlier this year will be surprised that Jayasuriya, the Sri Lanka all-rounder who was named player of the tournament, has deprived India's Mohammad Azharuddin of the record he had held since December 1988, when he reached a century against New Zealand off 62 balls.

But, what was unexpected was that Jayasuriya, who was playing against Pakistan in Singapore, would slice 14 deliveries off the record, an improvement of almost 25 per cent. It is like a sprinter reducing Leroy Burrell's best time for 100 metres from 9.85sec to 7.62sec.

Jayasuriya made his own assault on England's bowlers during the World Cup — when he scored 82 from 44 balls — look pedestrian. His first 50 came from 31 balls, his second from 17 and, when he was out in the 21st over, he had caned 134 from 65 deliveries. Sri Lanka were then 196 for two, but they "collapsed" and finished with 349, enough to give them victory by 34 runs.

"It was incredible stuff," Joe Grimberg, the president of the Singapore Cricket Association, said. "He just reminded me of Garry Sobers, the way he hit everything. He became rather impatient in the 1950s and got himself out. The

Pakistan bowling was ragged at the start, with Waqar Younis pitching short, but they tightened up a lot after Jayasuriya was out."

Jayasuriya broke two other one-day international records. He hit 11 sixes — three more than the total achieved by Gordon Greenidge — and took 29 runs off one over from Amir Sohail, who also delivered a wide. Previously, the most expensive over had cost

27 runs. The match aggregate of 664 runs has also never been exceeded.

"Although the Padang ground is small it is within the specifications laid down by the International Cricket Council (ICC)," Grimberg said. "Of Jayasuriya's 11 sixes I should say nine would have cleared the boundary on most Test grounds. Also, he hit 11 fours, although the grass on the outfield was quite long."



Jayasuriya's Singapore slog included 11 sixes

Sohail, captaining Pakistan in the absence of the injured Wasim Akram, put Sri Lanka in to bat, believing there to be moisture in the pitch to help his bowlers. After three overs the score was 40 for one.

Grimberg said that Jayasuriya's performance should help to put Singapore on the cricket map. The match was the opening fixture of the first international tournament sanctioned by the ICC to be staged there, a triangular event also involving India, whom Sri Lanka meet today. More games are in the pipeline and a new national stadium will be ready next year.

The Padang, where the match was played, is no more than a *maidan* and a crowd of only 1,000 was in attendance.

For such a fast operator, Jayasuriya, 26, took a long time to play himself in at international level. He first played for Sri Lanka in 1989 but it was five years before the left-hander scored his first century. But this year has seen a breakthrough. In January, he took his maiden Test hundred off Australia and followed up with his spectacular success at the World Cup.

"I didn't realise I had reached a record," he said. "We needed a big score and we had to hit out. Any score on this small ground is not safe. I played my normal game and got runs. I saw the ball early."

Which landmark will be rendered obsolete next? Will Jayasuriya be the first to score 200 in a one-day international? Will Sri Lanka, who ran up 398 against Kenya at the World Cup, be the first team past 400 and 500? What on earth will happen when they turn their attentions to Test cricket's staid patterns?

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